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Clijsters caps fairytale run; Federer, Del Potro vie for title

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Gov't OKs 6 'green' power projects

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 15, 2009 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 279 P18

IN A PRIVILEGE speech in the Senate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson accuses ousted President Joseph Estrada of masterminding "jueteng," smuggling and other criminal activities during his abbreviated presidency. EDITOON

ESTRADA: "Of course it's not true. He's a liar."

Ping drops bomb on Erap

'Arm-twisting, smuggling, jueteng'

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH ELECTION FEVER GRIPPING THE COUNTRY, SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday claimed that deposed President Joseph Estrada had bullied Alfonso Yuchengco into selling his stake in Philippine Long Distance Co. (PLDT) to the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Lacson said he would not be doing his duty as an elected official if he did not expose the character of Estrada, an actor who plans to run for president next year.

In a privilege speech titled "Ang Dahilang Muhlin ng Sining (Two Faces of the Arts)," Lacson, the chief of the Philippine National Police during the Estrada administration, said that the former President also:

- May have something to do with the December 2000 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.
- Intervened in the release of smuggled chickens and rice.
- Allowed "jueteng" operations to flourish and even accepted payola from Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

Lacson said "only the highest interest of nation and people, and the highest call of conscience" were impelling him to speak out.

"God save the Philippines from Joseph Ejercito alias Joseph Estrada," said Lacson, who is supporting the

PING DROPS A13

Estrada says Lacson a liar

By Kristine L. Alave

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada called Sen. Panfilo Lacson "a liar" for accusing him yesterday of being behind "jueteng," smuggling, and other criminal activities to harass and neutralize his enemies.

Asked what he thought of Lacson's privilege speech, Estrada said: "Of course, it's not true. He's a liar."

"I don't even want to dignify this. It's been nine years. Why is he saying this now?" Estrada said in a phone interview while taking a break from shooting a comedy movie.

ESTRADA A13

Enrile warns of AFP-PNP takeover if elections fail

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE Enrile yesterday warned that the military and the police might end up taking temporary control of the country if there would be a total failure of elections in 2010 resulting in a power vacuum.

Enrile, chief martial law implementor during the rule of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, warned of such a scenario because the "only mechanism at that point will be the institutions of legitimate violence of the State" and those were the Armed Forces and the police.

Speaking to reporters, Enrile said that if there would be total failure of elections next year, there would be no civilian authority (once June 30, 2010—when the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo is supposed to end—because there would be no President, no Vice President and no Senate

ENRILE A13

Doomsday election scenario virtually 'nil'

By Christian S. Monsod

[Editor's Note: As chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from February 1985 to June 1991, Monsod advocated the total computerization of the Philippine electoral system. He was also formerly chair of the poll watchdog National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.]

COMMENTARY

ONE OF THE CONCERNS regarding election automation is the doomsday scenario of a "total failure of elections" resulting in the "vacuum" of President Macapagal-Arroyo after June 30, 2010. In the absence of a provision in the Con-

DOOMSDAY A13

Noynoy says 8 polls show him winning big

By Michael Lim Ubac, Leila B. Salaverria and Kristine L. Alave

A RECENT SOCIAL WEATHER Stations (SWS) survey, which shows that one of every two voters in Luzon would support him, may have limited coverage but it is indicative of the nation's pulse, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said yesterday.

Aquino, standard-bearer of the Liberal Party (LP), said seven to eight separate surveys showed practically the same results.

"This proves that people want change," said the only son of the late President Corazon Aquino and opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who was assassinated upon his return to the country in 1983.

In the SWS survey conducted on Sept. 5 and 6, Aquino obtained 50 percent, dislodging the previous front runner, Sen. Manny Villar, who was a far second with 14 percent.

The survey covered 1,200 re-

NOYNOY A13

IN HIGH SPIRITS Senators Mar Roxas and Noynoy Aquino share a light moment during a break in the Senate on Monday. And no wonder. According to results of a recently released Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey, if the presidential election were held this month, their tandem would win more than half the votes in vote-rich Luzon. KIMPO KONGLAYA

Captain says winds may have sunk SuperFerry 9

By Kristine L. Alave

THE CAPTAIN OF THE doomed SuperFerry 9 said strong winds may have caused the sinking of the ship off the Zamboanga Peninsula on Sept. 8, a claim rejected by the Philippine Coast Guard at the start of the investigation into the sea mishap yesterday.

In his testimony before the Board of Marine Inquiry (BMI), Capt. Joel Yap told the vessel started to roll at around 11 p.m. on Sept. 5, due to strong winds.

"The wind from the portside was getting stronger," said the skipper of the 7,000-ton vessel owned by Aboitiz Transport System Corp. He said the wind

CAPTAIN A13

Solon takes up heavy schoolbag issue

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT'S A BURDEN TOO HEAVY TO thrust upon a young child—a stuffed schoolbag, that is.

Lugging around a bag as heavy as the child's own body weight has alarmed one lawmaker who is pushing several measures to protect young students from the dangers of carrying overweight schoolbags.

Pampanga Rep. Carmelo

SOLON A7

Radar has only 10-year life span

By Jovanie Aning

THE "HUGE INTERNATIONAL embarrassment" that was Sunday's radar malfunction at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) has once again exposed the dismal state of affairs at the country's supposed premier gateway.

The faulty radar, which delayed at least 4,000 passengers, should have been replaced four years ago, a senior aviation official said on Monday.

The radar, commissioned in 1996, was meant to have a lifespan of just 10 years, but its replacement had been snagged by bureaucratic setbacks, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) spokesperson Eduardo Batac told Agence

RADAR A9

BRAVE NEW WORLD OF STEM CELLS

From science fiction to reality

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(Second of a series)

IN THE PHILIPPINES, A nurse that has become synonymous with stem cells, and in a bigger dimension, with molecular and regenerative medicine, is Dr. Samuel D. Bernal.

"Molecular medicine," Bernal proclaims, "is now, the present. Not the future. In this era of molecular biology we are now recognizing even more that personalized medicine involves analyzing the molecular characteristics of a patient."

The Filipino-American doctor is a cancer survivor who applied on himself his knowledge of regenerative medicine and stem cell therapy where he was thought to be dying nine years ago. He stresses that the body holds a potent army for healing that needs to be harnessed and trained to recognize the enemy.

SPECIAL REPORT

Bernal holds clinics at The Medical City (TMC) in Pasig City where he is not treating patients in Los Angeles or Prague. (More on Bernal tomorrow.)

"We constantly gather objective data so that we have a basis to follow scientifically what is happening to the pa-

STEM CELLS A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: A high pressure area (HPA) is entering our region and Mindanao. The northeast monsoon will have only minimal effect on these areas while the rest of the country will experience cloudy skies with occasional rain showers and thunderstorms due to the intertropical convergence zone.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Legaspi	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Naga	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Tagbilaran City	Partly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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Forgery alleged in picking Nat'l Artists

CCP exec says Palace honors panel never met on controversial awardees

By Gil Cabacungan and Norman Bordadora

AN OFFICIAL OF THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE Philippines (CCP) yesterday told a House committee inquiry that the Malacañang honors committee did not hold a meeting to deliberate on this year's controversial National Artist awardees, who include Cecille Guidote-Alvarez and Carlo J. Caparas.

In her testimony, lawyer and CCP director Lorna Kapunan charged the honors committee with "forging the minutes of the meeting to cover their tracks" and justify the selection of Alvarez (for theater), Caparas (for visual arts and film), as well as of Francisco Mañosa (for architecture) and Jose "Pepe" Moreno (for fashion design).

The joint boards of the CCP and the National Center for the Culture and the Arts (NCCA) have questioned the manner by which Malacañang exercised the names of the four awardees.

The CCP and NCCA's nominees were filmmaker Manuel Conde, visual artist Federico Aguilar, novelist Lazaro Francisco, and composer Ramon Santos.

Misrepresentation

Yesterday, however, dropped Santos and added Alvarez, Mañosa, Moreno and Caparas to the list.

That's a big fat lie

"This is nothing personal Cecille," said Kapunan before calling her testimony.

Alvarez was quick to deny Kapunan's charges.

"That's a lie. That's a big fat lie. Because they [the CCP and NCCA officials] are lazy to read it (the executive orders), we added the exact provisions [in the minutes] so they could easily understand it. This is not a case of forgery," said Alvarez.

Alvarez claimed during the hearing that the selection process for the National Artist award had always been a democratic give-between the CCP-NCCA and the Malacañang honors committee headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

But Ricardo de Ungria, head of the NCCA sub-committee of the arts and one of the panelists involved in the three-year selection process for National Artists, maintained that the arts community "were never apprised of the existence of the animal since the start of the selection process this year or eight years ago."

De Ungria said that the honors committee "added, or changed nominees in the minutes to add the honors committee to the selection, two to three weeks after Malacañang's awardees were announced."

What connives?

"We should have known that there was such a thing as an honors committee. They went to claim now that it has always been there, but it wasn't there before. This will legitimize what the honors committee has done," said De Ungria.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the investigation was meant to curb the power of the President to veto the right (of selection process of the CCP and NCCA.

Kapunan told the lawmakers that the selection process was made very clear in the line "to deliberate (by nominees) and vote from the influence of the powers that be."

"When the law says final discretion, that is what it is. The joint board of the CCP and NCCA decides who should get the National Artist award.

"The three opposite words regarding the authority of the President are confirmation, proclamation and conferred. When does the honors committee come in?" asked Kapunan.

We were surprised

The CCP memorandum, last August the Supreme Court to order the proclamation of its four original choices as this year's national artists.

In a 23-page comment to the petition against the proclamation, of this year's National artists, the CCP said the Palace's candidates were either outright disqualified or were rejected only during selection process.

"[The] proclamations of the four other 2009 National Artists not recommended by the CCP and the NCCA, and the dropping of one of the honorary artists named by the CCP and the NCCA was a surprise to the CCP as well," the CCP said in its comment.

The CCP argued that its objections were disqualified because of her petition to the NCCA public Mariñas, Caparas and Mañosa fell by the wayside during various stages of the selection process.

"The list submitted by the CCP and the NCCA Joint Board was always expected to the 8-set list for confirmation and proclamation. There were very few exceptions to this," the CCP petition said.

"Never was an artist's name removed from the list submitted by the CCP and the NCCA Joint Board until now," it added, referring to Santos.

Teachers' group seeks CCP apology for Imelda tribute

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE MILITANT ALLIANCE OF Concerned Teachers (ACT) has asked the officials of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to apologize to the nation for the tribute they paid to former first lady Imelda Marcos.

"We demand that the CCP make amends by issuing a public apology," Antonio Tinio, national chair of the 30,000-strong ACT, said the hapunan yesterday.

According to Tinio, the CCP "has committed a grievous error in paying tribute to someone who should be languishing in jail for the role she played in depriving millions of Filipinos of their basic rights, including the right to free expression."

Last Friday's anniversary gala event, dubbed "Seven Arts, One Imelda," showcased several luminaries and all those who had fought the dictatorship, Tinio said.

CCP chair Emily Abrera said she did "not see what we need to apologize for."

"The awards is being made of this time, really. It was a single gesture of recognition from the institution. Regardless," Abrera said.

Bonifer Jardin, a member of the CCP board of trustees, also brushed aside Tinio's call.

"I don't think the CCP should apologize. It was a place where to a founding chair who established the institution. This gesture of gratitude from the CCP and the artists themselves should not be politicized," said Jardin. Former CCP president and artistic director

Raul Sunico, who explored Jardin in June, had earlier said there was not politics to the tribute, that "we are honoring her service because that lady but in the founding chair of the CCP."

Other CCP board members include Senate Education Secretary Jaime Laya, Ambassador Isabel Wilson, lawyer Lorna Kapunan, Teresita Sunico, Bobbie Bautista, Rogerio Medina, Teresita Lui, Benjamin Concepcion, Rachel Montgomery del Mar, and Supreme executive secretary Edmundo Hontiveros.

Yesterday, Kabataan party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino described the Sept. 11 tribute as "controversary."

"Instead of Seven Arts, One Imelda, the event should have been on Deadly Arts, One Tyrant," said Palatino in a text message.

Tony Sabas, League of Filipino Students spokesperson, called the tribute "an insult to the pursuits of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship."

"Our collective opinion seven to have a positive sense of gaining honor to the undeserving," Sabas said.

For his part, Anakbayan secretary general Ken Flores said: "It gives the youth the wrong idea that patronage of the arts can redeem widespread human rights violations."

"We wonder, [young people] are growing up with no sense of history," Flores said.

Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the other day assailed the CCP event as "unmindful about the history of our nation during the dark days of the dictatorship."

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Oil firms cut prices by 25¢

By Joey R. Bueza

INDEPENDENT OIL PLAYER SEAOIL Philippines slashed the prices of its gasoline and kerosene by 25 centavos a liter effective 10 p.m. yesterday.

Major oil player Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines followed suit at 12:01 a.m. today, implementing the same oil price rollback for its gasoline, diesel and kerosene products.

Total Philippines, Petron Corp. and Phoenix Petroleum Philippines also cut the prices of their petroleum products by 25 centavos a liter at 6:01 a.m. today.

According to Shell, the latest rollback was intended to reflect the decline in international product prices last week, consistent with the previous week's decline.

Prices of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products fell slightly to an average of $77.11 a barrel during the Sept. 7-11 period, compared to the previous week's $78.14 a barrel average.

MOPS-based diesel prices likewise dipped to $78.16 a barrel last week from the $78.74 a barrel average during the Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 period.

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DAR chief joins calls on Luisita

By Nikko Dizon

AGRARIAN REFORM Secretary Nasser Pangandaman yesterday joined the calls for president-designate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to distribute his family's vast sugar estate to its farmers.

Pangandaman expressed the hope Aquino would lead his family in withdrawing an appeal they have pending in the Supreme Court.

The family is contesting the government's revocation of the stock distribution option (SDO) that the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita enjoyed to its economic control of land titles.

Aquino's maternal relatives, the Cojuangcos, own the 6,000-hectare estate.

"I hope they withdraw their petition before the SC. [The distribution of land to farmers] is already taking too long. We were already at the tail-end of the processing of land titles for the farmers. Our position is Hacienda Luisita is an agricultural land and therefore covered under CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)," Pangandaman told the Inquirer by phone.

Pangandaman said he welcomed Aquino's statement made over the weekend.

After a visit to a dam in Quezon City on Saturday, Aquino told reporters: "In of now, it's me, personally, if my family finds it has it to (let) their (Hacienda Luisita) as before, then maybe my family should leave."

'Settle obligations first'

Aquino, the likely standard-bearer of the Liberal Party in the 2010 elections, cited debt vexed and overlooking labor issues as among the problems bedeviling Luisita, which was purchased in the 1950s by the parents of his mother, the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

Asked if the Cojuangcos could relinquish ownership of the sugar estate altogether as a pending agrarian reform issue, Pangandaman said: "They should settle their obligations first. That's how it should be done."

However, he "could not really comment" as he had yet to see the documents on the supposed debt that Luisita had incurred.

GMA makes 28th visit to Pampanga projects

FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga—Four days after visiting flood-stricken areas in her home province of Pampanga, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was back Monday to open water systems and support a school building and farm-to-market roads.

It was Ms Arroyo's 28th visit to Pampanga this year. Her visit had fueled talk she would seek the congressional seat currently held by her son, Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Asked Monday, one of Ms Arroyo's spokespersons said the visits were made to ensure that government projects were implemented and because of the province's proximity to Metro Manila.

"Whatever plan she has as a private citizen after her term, she would be the only person to know that," Tejada said.

Ms Arroyo opened a P33-million water system in Barangay dona that would benefit 465 families.

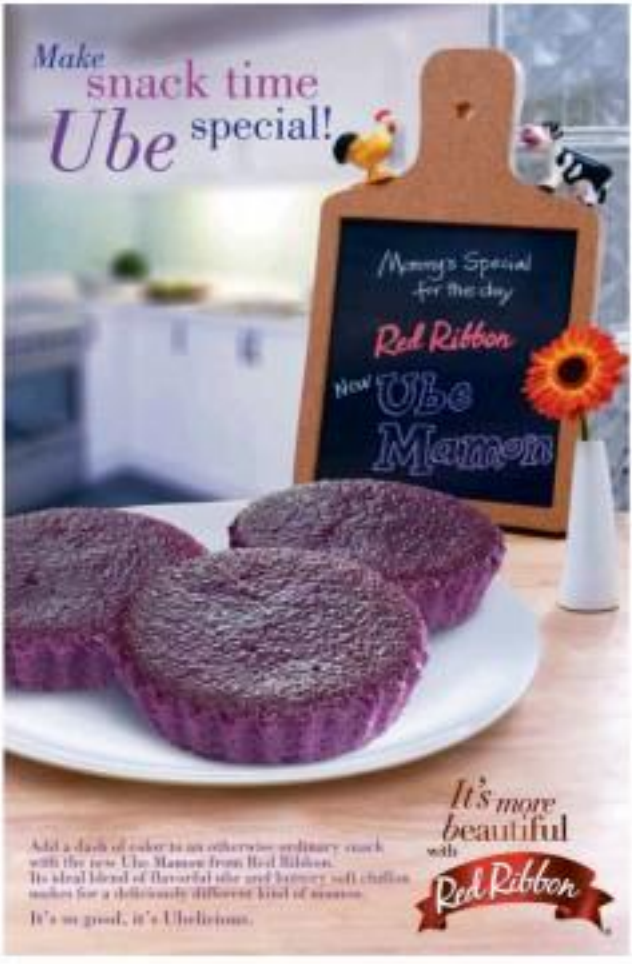
She was joined by her son and officials of the town and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

In Barangay Sta. Monica, the President inspected a school-building built by the Philippine Air Force's 555th Aviation Engineering Wing.

While Ms Arroyo interacted with the students, members of the Presidential Security Group held a demonstration and allowed students to play with bomb-sniffing dogs.

She later inspected two farm-to-market roads in the villages of Sindit and Del Carmen.

After a private lunch with the wives of some of Pampanga's mayors, she met with Catalino Mayor Arcay Pelayo and Alberto Veloso, regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, to assess the damage caused by recent typhoons on the Candaba-Bulacan Road. Charlene Gayathoh, Inquirer Central Luzon



All covered medicine to cost 50-percent less starting today

By Dona Pazalbugan

A 50-PERCENT PRICE CUT ON 21 COMMON but expensive medicines will be fully implemented in all drugstores today.

Small- and medium-size drugstores and hospital pharmacies had been given until today to cover their pricing systems so they could sell all 21 medicines at the lowest prices mandated by the government.

The bigger drugstore chains and hospital pharmacies started implementing the maximum drug retail price (MDRP) on Aug. 15.

"We are expecting all retail and institutional drug stores have revised our their inventory and release systems with their suppliers," said Dr. Robert So, program director of the Department of Health's National Drug Policy program.

"By tomorrow (Sept. 15) these should be no excuses relating to their inventory. But if there are other reasons (why they cannot sell at the lower prices), then we would be taking them to explain," he added.

Upon the DOH's recommendation, Malacañang issued Executive Order 822 setting a price ceiling on five common but expensive medicines or MDRP.

These are the antihypertensive drug amlodipine, the antidiabetes drug atorvastatin, the antibiotic and antibacterial drug azithromycin, and the antineoplastics and anticancer drugs cytarabine and clarithromycin.

Pharmaceutical companies managed to evade price regulations by rebrowning an equivalent 10 percent price reduction on 16 other essential but expensive medicines. These are telmisartan and irbesartan which are antihypertensive drugs; the anti-thrombotic drug clopidogrel; the anticholesterol drug gemfibrozil; the antibiotic drugs piperacillin + tazobactam, ciprofloxacin, ranitidinebismuth and ranitidine; and bleomycin, carboplatin, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, mannopropazone, methotrexate sodium and zinnate which are anticancer drugs.

Republic Act No. 9502 known as the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008, gave the DOH the power to impose administrative fines from P50,000 to P5 million against any person, manufacturer, importer, trader, distributor, wholesaler, retailer or any other entity who will violate the imposed maximum retail price.

But for the 15 drugs under voluntary price cuts, the Food and Drug Administration (formerly Bureau of Food and Drugs) can only involve the Consumer Act and impose a P1,000 fine for violations.

But the FDA can also suspend a product's registration, which in effect will prohibit a drug company from selling a particular medicine. It can also revoke the license to operate of an existing drugstore or pharmacy.

The FDA has set up a complaints hotline (8570731 and 8570273) for complaints against drug outlets that continue to defy the maximum drug retail price.

Overcrowding forces cuts in class time

ALARMED BY THE OVERCROWDING in some public elementary schools, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has ordered classes in those schools reduced to four or five hours.

In a memorandum he issued in late August, Lapus also directed that some subject taught in the schools be integrated into other subjects to encourage the fix-school learning hours.

"In response to the alarming population of learners in a class, [the the] safety of students, and [the] public decree for a smaller learning load, (DepEd) will implement a revised classroom program and subject reorientation which integrates some learning areas resulting in reduced learning hours in the elementary level," Lapus said.

All schools that claim to lack classrooms shall implement this order," he said.

Lapus said that length for the various grades in the affected schools shall be as follows: for grades 1 and 2, four hours of learning time; grade 3, four and a half hours; and grades 4, 5 and 6, five hours.

"In comparison for the reduced number of hours per day, Kindergarten Pupils will be integrated into all learning areas from grades 1 to 6, (while) Sibika at Kultura will be integrated into Filipino from grades 1 to 3," he said.

"Maths, Sining in Kilalayang Pagpapalaya ng Kaisipan will be integrated into Hekgrapiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika (Sibika) in grades 4 to 6," he said.

The order included a sample classroom program, which suggested that English be taught for 90 minutes in grades 1 to 3, and for 60 minutes for grades 4 to 6.

Mathematics would be taught for 90 minutes for grades 1 to 6, and for 60 minutes in grades 4 to 6. Filipino, Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan, MAPE and Values could be taught for 90 minutes in grades 4 to 6.

The sample also suggested that Science and Health be taught for 90 minutes for grade 1 and 60 minutes for grades 4 to 6.

Philip C. Tubeza

MEETING IN NEW YORK Defense Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. (left) called on Ambassador Hilario G. Davide Jr., Permanent Philippine Representative to the United Nations, at the Philippine Center in New York City. Teodoro had come from Washington, D.C., where he met with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates to discuss moving RP-US relations to a higher gear. Teodoro then flew in New York for talks with UN Undersecretary for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy on the deployment of a Philippine contingent to the Golan Heights next month.

Palace budget breezes through House panel

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS committee yesterday approved the P4,259-billion budget of the Office of the President in less than five minutes, dredging up none of the controversies that had surrounded the office's use of travel funds in the past months.

It also approved in the same quick headway was the Office of the Vice President's P140-million budget.

Citing tradition, Tawi-Tawi Rep. Nur Jaafar moved to dispense with the Office of the President's presentation as well as with the deliberations on its budget, except that of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG), a matter considered by his colleagues.

The lone members from the security at the hearing, Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero, moved for the approval of the appropriation. Nobody objected.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was present at the hearing and thanked the lawmakers, saying that he would tell the PMRS about the lawmakers' desire to question its officials.

Last year, the OP's budget was also approved quickly, but it first gave a Powerful presentation, according to those present then.

House appropriations committee chair Quirino Rep. Junie Cua said it was the smartest way to challenge the two office's budgets, but added that the did not mean that the proposed funding would not be scrutinized.

"The hearing on the budget presentation of the Office of President and the Office of the Vice President were dispensed with because as a matter of tradition, we extend courtesy to these high offices," Cua told reporters.

But he said that there were staff members who would go over and analyze the proposed appropriations. The budget would also be discussed and reviewed in executive meetings, he added.

Asked why the committee members did not ask about the President's frequent travels as well as reports about her expensive dinners in the United States, the appropriations committee chair said these matters could be discussed in the budget is tackled in the plenary.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño, who arrived just after the approval of the budgets and was surprised at the quick turn of events, presented the audience of waiting the deliberations on the two top executive office's budget.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 13 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Taiwan, dead ally lures the RP proud to Deadlympics"—misstated that Philippine Airlines sponsored the airfare of the six Filipinos who participated in the recent Deaflympics in Taiwan. The six participants used the PAL mileage points of their friends.

* * *

THE SAME STORY misstated that the Taiwanese government shouldered the hotel accommodations of the six Filipinos in Taipei. A Taiwanese businessman paid the hotel expenses.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors or errors in the Fine Print, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makaraig Street, Makati City, fax this (897-07-85/924), e-mail (cdfine@inquirer.com.ph) or text (0920-9541111). Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Public Editor, e-mail address: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph, or fax this (897-07-85/86 ext. 2). Please include the phone number (with area code).

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, September 15, 2009
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: 1 Tim 3:1-13
Gospel: Lk 2:33-35 (or Jn 19:25-27)

His father and mother wondered at what was said about the child. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, See how he is destined for the rise or fall of the multitudes of Israel. He shall stand as a sign of contradiction, while a sword will pierce your own soul. Then the secret thoughts of many may be brought to light."

Commentary:

We can trust devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows back to apostolic times. St. John the Evangelist, whom we can consider as one of the first devotees of the Mother of Sorrows, witnessed first-hand that Mary stood by the cross of her son. On Calvary she suffered, overwhelmed with grief at seeing her son die an agonizing death by crucifixion. At the presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple, Simeon prophesied that Mary's soul would be pierced by a sword, so that the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed. Mary, as the first and greatest disciple of her Son, participated in a most deep and profound way in the redemptive work of Christ.

By commemorating Our Lady of Sorrows, we call to mind the sufferings that Mary endured as part of her mission in the world. In this she too has participated most eminently in the redemptive suffering of Christ her Son. We reflect on Mary's sufferings also to imitate her and with Christ, on account of our sins and on behalf of the spiritual children she has in Our Lady of Sorrows different sanctuaries in its parishes and media apostolate, so as to unite the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Venice prize to help RP winner keep telling stories

By Boyet Sun Diego Jr.
Entertainment

YOUNG FILIPINO FILMMAKER Dan. Lawson "Pepe" Diokno, who won one top prize at the just-concluded Venice International Film Festival, hopes to use his P4.6-million cash prize to fund a new film—after paying off debts.

A lot of people helped him make his winning film, "Engkwentro," Diokno said. "Some offered me to pay them on installment."

He won the top prize Saturday night in the Orizzonti (New Horizons) section and the Luigi de Laurentiis award for debuting filmmakers. At 22, Diokno is one of the youngest to score a major win in the world's oldest film festival (and among the 10 most prestigious). He is also one of the youngest Filipinos to win an international cinema competition award. It was the De Laurentiis award that carried the cash prize of $100,000.

His second film will tackle the plight of children caught in the war against insurgency in Mindanao. "I journey, film," Diokno said (success in a phone interview preceding already at an 8:00 a.m. hotel breakfast). "Kids 10 or 12 years old are recruited as soldiers there," he said.

"Engkwentro" tells the tragic story of teenage gang members hacked down by vigilante groups. Only his first movie, it won Special Mention in the Cinemaldito Digital Film Festival in July.

Asked if his grandfather, the late senator and human rights advocate Jose Diokno, had influenced his choice of subject matter, the filmmaker said:

"Maybe subconsciously, but it's not something I intended. For me it's not just a question of law or human rights. Around me, I see the constant struggle between good and evil, love and hate. What make up stories

YOUNG FILIPINO DIRECTOR Pepe Diokno (fifth from left) not only won his category at the Venice film festival, he also got to meet one of his idols, Oscar-winning director Ang Lee (fourth from left). Others at the after-awards dinner were (from left) members Bianca Balbuena, Mark Locsin, Simone Pascual, Aimee Obaldo, Chie Filomeno, host actor Fele Rico and Catherine Brand of the Philippine Film Festival Geneva.

where the life force of existence continually ebb and flow."

He is happy about the certainty that his victory will "open a lot of doors."

Meeting Ang Lee

And as far as he is concerned, another highlight of his festival sojourn was meeting Oscar-winning filmmaker Ang Lee, president of the jury in the main competition.

When he left for Italy, Diokno said, his only goal was to meet his idols, three other Oscar-winning filmmakers—Michael Mann, Steven Soderbergh and Wim Lanserhof, who were all festival participants.

"I didn't get to see any of them," said Diokno. "But I saw Hollywood actor George Clooney from afar."

And he studied a souvenir supplied with Ang Lee ("Hulk," "Brokeback Mountain," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") after the awards ceremony.

"My crew asked to have a photo taken with him and he looked for me," Diokno recalled. He asked if the US-based Taiwanese filmmaker was now used to being accosted by fans for photographs. "He just shrugged."

Advice from Colin Firth

Backstage, he also met the United Kingdom's Colin Firth, who won Best Actor for his "Single Man."

"He came ahead of us at the photo call with photojournalists," Diokno recounted. "He gave us good advice: He told us not to let the photographers bully us. He said the Beijing lights could be blinding."

Diokno also met the jury members who "unanimously" awarded him the De Laurentiis—or Lion of the Future—prize, including US filmmaker Antonio Pogni.

"They told me that they liked the brutalness of the storytelling. They said it wasn't a perfect film, but that they saw something in it, and they'd like to see what I would do next."

The jury cited the film for its "bravery." Diokno recalled. "They said they found a long distance runner from the Philippines."

Distributors

Diokno also met with prospective distributors in Venice.

"Festival director Marco Muller said he would help us find distributors in Europe. He's very supportive," Diokno said.

Muller's programmer Paolo Bertolin partied with Diokno and his Filipino crew after the ceremony. "Nahiyap marunot si amin. (He joined in for drinks.)"

Local actor Felix Roco, cinematographer Kristian Discaya, sound engineer Mark Locsin, line producer Amor Olagnet, assistant director Bianca Balbuena and production manager Chie Filomeno joined Diokno in Italy.

When the film wins, Diokno said his whole contingent was treated royally.

"My first reaction was to look at Felix. I didn't know what was happening because the ceremonies were being conducted in Italian. I just recognized the title of our film," he recounted.

He later learned that the De Laurentiis honor included all first-time filmmakers in all the sections—including those in the main competition, which included Scribe Lim's talent Samuel Mata for the film "Lola" and Brillante Mendoza for the film "Women Without Men").

"I was from movie ... and I was wowed," he said.

He also saw "Lola," Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza's entry in the main competition. "I loved it. I was at the official screening and the audience really appreciated it."

UP thesis

He said "Engkwentro" started as his thesis in UP Diliman, and that he plans to use the movie on campuses all over the country.

Best of all, Diokno hopes to rejoin Venice in the near future, and "keep trying" to enter other international film fests as well.

PNP to probe new Davao killings

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police (PNP) has assembled an investigative team to look into fresh reports of vigilante-style killings in Davao City amid other parts of southern Mindanao.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said yesterday investigators from Camp Crame, the PNP Human Rights Affairs Office (HRAO) and regional police officers had converged in probe the 22 deaths around southern Mindanao since August believed carried out by shadowy hooded-death squads.

"As requested by the Commission on Human Rights, we have fielded an investigation team from headquarters and the HRAO," Espina said.

He said PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa had also ordered Davao regional police director Chief Supt. Pedro Tango to investigate the cases and report the results to headquarters.

"Please assure that our cases of murder, homicide and the like, it is automatic for the PNP to investigate and wants no time in coming up with the results. Those are grave offenses," Espina said.

Most prosecutors in Davao reported that 15 deaths that could be attributed to vigilantism were reported in August, while seven more were recorded in the first week of September.

Unexplained killings around Davao City including those of crime suspects and youth offenders, grabbed the CHR's attention earlier this year. Some 900 unsolved cases have been reported since 1998.

Negros Occidental police chief Senior Supt. Manuel Bala, meanwhile, ordered the police chiefs of Himamaylan, Kabankalan and Mabinay Bacolod to track down those behind the deaths of three persons whose bodies were found in their respective jurisdictions over the weekend.

Found on Friday and Saturday were the remains of Barney Antonio Cardo, who had three bullet wounds on his head and body; Timoteo Tevilla, who had back wounds and one shot in the right leg; and an unidentified man.

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OneWorld

Stem cells: From science fiction to reality

From page A1

brain/ bodies and their cells," Bernal emphasizes. "We recognize the uniqueness of individuals at the molecular level."

He cites the case of a 38-year-old patient from Las Vegas who was "essentially dying."

Oncologist Dr. Marilou Chua Tan says of the case: "He had cancer in the lungs, spleen, brain, spine. He had already stayed at a hospice and was expected to die in a few months. His father checked us out and brought him to TMC. Dr. Jun Eoarth (stem cell injection) the CD stem (imaging showed that his tumor had reacted, that the spinal fluid became clear of cancer cells. He is alive, functional, jogging. He even got married."

"We are not saying that he is completely cured," Bernal adds, "but his quality of life dramatically improved. Prolongation of life—that is a major advance stems. There are patients that doctors have given up on. Four years ago we had this doctor who had cancer all over her body. Now she is free of the disease."

Dendritic

Another patient at TMC, Andrecho Ramirez, 69, has been receiving dendritic cell therapy using his own adult stem cells. Autologous, it is called, or vein-planning cells that have gone through a laboratory process. The businessman from Cagayan de Oro was diagnosed in 2007 as having Stage 3-4 multiple myeloma or cancer of the bone marrow.

He was taken his arms to show how tremendously strong he has become and how the disease has been kept at bay. "I hope to live beyond 80," he exclaims.

Interior designer Marise Ong, 36, was diagnosed in 2006 as having stage 4 colon cancer in the Philippines, the entire were researching of the colon and in Singapore she went through performectomy, a high-risk surgery to clean out her affected performers. She had chemotherapy, six stem cell injections plus three boosters at TMC. So far, she's been feeling up well, enjoying life and travelling every now and then.

Homer Labor Secretary Marvin Gaviola, now associate dean at Asian Institute of Management, was discovered in 2008 to have Stage 3 histiocytosarcoma, a rare form of cancer in her uterus. "It took five months for doctors to discover what was wrong," Gaviola says. "I had lost 45 pounds and I had fevers of unknown origin."

Gaviola had surgery and six cycles of chemotherapy but in 2007, stains were discovered in her left lung and she again had to go under the knife. Before that she had thyroidectomy. She decided to have stem cell therapy.

"It has really helped me," Gaviola says. "It's been three years." She continues to teach and to participate in peace organizations involving groups in conflict.

Innovative

More than 130 patients had either undergone or are undergoing stem cell therapy at TMC. The procedure does not come cheap and because it is classified as "innovative," it is not covered by insurance. But it is hoped that in the future, just like all breakthroughs in technologies, it will be within the reach of many.

At St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), scientists and doctors broke new ground in 2006 with the use of stem cells in treating patients that have been blinded or partially blinded because of ocular damage.

Dr. Jessica Abano headed the transplant which successfully restored the left eye of a 52-year-old man who had been blinded by a chemical burn years before and could not be effectively treated with conventional surgery. It was the first limbal stem cell transplant in the country.

Abano describes the procedure while showing an actual video: "A small biopsy [1mm x 2mm] of stem cells was harvested from the healthy conjunctiva of the patient's right eye in a painless procedure that lasted less than 10 minutes. The biopsy was then brought to the hospital's Research and Biomedicine Division."

Using a piece of amniotic membrane [the wrapping of newborns] as medium, stem cells roamed the cells to grow core functional tissue cells of tissue about 25mm x 25mm. After the abnormal fibrovascular growth was removed from the patient's damaged eye, Abano stitched the bioengineered epithelial sheet on the eye.

Bioengineered tissues

Says Dr. Mark Peters Dimayuga: "With ocular stem cells, we demonstrate our ability to perform cutting edge basic laboratory research with clever clinical applications." Set up in 2004, St. Luke's stem cell lab is the first in the Philippines.

This is an important step toward the stage when tissue engineers may be able to purchase readily corneas replacements that can be easily transplanted whole into patients with severe corneal damage, says Dimayuga. "Today we can do ocular surface tissue. In the future we could harness in the retina. The technology to replace diseased cells in various organs with bioengineered tissues is rapidly moving. Even the realm of science fiction is reality."

This breakthrough is significant in the Philippines where eye ocular injuries are more common than in more developed countries.

SLMC is now pursuing a study using stem cells from the buccal mucosa (inner part of the cheek) to treat patients with injury on both eyes.

Lab monkeys

Since 1997, SLMC, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Venice Conservation and Breeding Center have been working together to develop a protocol to induce myocardial infarction (heart muscle damage) in monkeys. Stem cell technology is then used to treat the damaged tissue.

Dr. Filipino Natividad explains that the monkeys [macaques] in the SLMC lab are the source of the stem cells and are also the recipients of the stem cell transplants. This is an autologous cell transplantation scheme: the monkey patient is both the donor and the recipient.

Before damaging the monkey's heart, scientists harvest stem cells from its bone marrow. These are then cultured in the lab and made to grow as heart muscle cells. Experiments are still ongoing. It will still be a while before this could be replicated on human hosts in the Philippines.

Dr. Arturo R. Cunanan, SLMC senior vice president and chief medical officer, discloses that SLMC has also performed stem cell therapy on someone with spinal cord injury. The stem cells were taken from the patient's bone marrow and injected near the injury.

"We had to go through an ethical review of its value and risks," Cunanan says. The stem cells were processed with the help of a Singapore partner. (To be continued)

PAINLESS PROCEDURE Dr. Jessica Abano, a corneal specialist at St. Luke's Medical Center, shows a video of a successful stem cell transplant on the left eye of a 52-year-old man that was blinded by a chemical burn in the first procedure of its kind in the Philippines. (INQ/VINCE)

Solon takes up issue of heavy schoolbag

From page A1

Lacuna has filed a bill seeking to limit the size and weight of textbooks school children have to carry. The bill will also distribute information on the health hazards of carrying heavy schoolbags.

Lacuna said children carrying big, heavy bags had become a common sight as they tried to bring all their textbooks and school supplies to class.

A bag that weighs more than 10 percent of a child's body is considered overweight, he said.

"Health is the priority for children; education is nil if the final bodies of children are compromised," Lacuna said in a statement.

He added that the spinal ligaments and muscles of children were not fully developed until they are 18 years old. Spinal stress early in life can result in numerous musculoskeletal problems.

Under the proposed law, the Department of Education (DepEd) will have to consider the size and weight of textbooks before approving them for use.

"The DepEd will also regulate textbooks, taking into consideration [their] size and weight inside from their teaching and education values," he said.

Lacuna also wants the DepEd to work with the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a nationwide assessment of students' schoolbags.

The DOH will be required to tell schools about the health hazards of carrying overweight bags. School administrators will pass on the information to parents and children.

"The school administrators will promote home and school cooperation on the issue," he said.

Weighing scales should be placed in school premises so students can check the weight of their bags.

He said local government units should buy storage facilities like lockers, shelves and desks with storage compartments so children do not have to lug around their school books.

School administrators should lay down homework policies that will take into account that children may already be carrying a lot of things.

Lacuna said students should be taught organizational skills so they do not have to bring the bulk of materials to school everyday.

Parent-Teacher Associations could also promote good study practices so students would not have to bring all their books and materials to school every day, he added.

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CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

COPW URGES CONGRESS TO AMEND THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW IMMEDIATELY!

The latest oil price hike was attributed to the increase in oil consumption in the US, the world's largest economy. With the improvement of the US economy and the approaching winter season, price of oil in the world market will likely increase.

CONGRESS MUST NOW AMEND THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW SO THAT THE CONSUMER IS NOT TOTALLY DEFENSELESS AGAINST INDISCRIMINATE PRICE HIKES BY ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Strengthen the safeguard provisions built into Chapter III of the law particularly Sec 12(a)** mandating the DOE-DOJ Task Force to monitor the **volume and value of oil inventories** as they arrive and for the Bureau of Customs and the BIR to ensure that the **correct duties and taxes are paid.**
2. That the DOE-DOJ Task Force inform the public whether an oil **price increase or decrease is justified and is fair.**
3. That Congress **impose appropriate sanctions on the DOE-DOJ Task Force** if they do not comply with their mandated duties.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Over the past 11 years, the DOE-DOJ Task Force has been remiss** in performing its tasks as mandated by the safeguard provisions of the Oil Deregulation Law which includes informing the public if price increases or decreases are fair and justified.
2. **AND YET** the DOE has repeatedly maintained that they cannot do anything because by law, the oil industry is deregulated.
3. The DOE and the Oil Companies have said that **FREE MARKET FORCES alone determine the prices of petroleum products.**
4. **AND YET** the DOE has not issued a clear determination on which pricing benchmark to use and by whom: MOPS Singapore for importers like the New Players and Dubai crude for refiners like Petron and Shell.
5. COPW had urgently requested that **Oil Refiners Shell and Petron buy forward contracts when crude oil per barrel was at $33.98 for March delivery and $37.51 for April delivery. THIS WOULD HAVE MEANT PRICE REDUCTIONS OF P8.00 IN MARCH AND P7.00 IN APRIL.** Shell, in a full page ad on March 3, 2009 stated that it does not practice buying forward contracts because that is tantamount to speculation. Shell even went as far as accusing COPW of misleading the public and telling COPW to correct its factual mistakes.
6. **IT WAS THEREFORE UNFAIR for Shell to have passed on to the riding public and the motorists the cost of the crude they opted to buy at a higher price** despite an earlier opportunity to buy lower.
7. Price adjustments for Shell and Petron should be **once a month because they have a 30-day inventory cycle.**
8. Global importers Chevron and Total and New Players Seaoil, Flying V and Unioil can **adjust their prices weekly because their inventory cycle is 10 to 15 days.** They import finished diesel and gasoline products using the regional MOPS (Means of Platts Singapore) pricing.

COPW TESTIFIES IN OIL PRICING CASE AGAINST SHELL, PETRON AND CALTEX

COPW Chair Raul T. Concepcion appeared in court last Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, in response to the subpoena issued by Judge Silvino Pampilo of the Manila RTC Branch 26 ordering the COPW Chair to testify on the allegations that Shell, Petron and Caltex were overpricing their products.

The lawyers of the Big 3 oil companies motioned that the court should not proceed with hearing the case since they have a pending petition with the Supreme Court questioning the lower court's jurisdiction. They stressed that their presence in the court was merely to "observe" the proceedings. Judge Pampilo ruled that since the Supreme Court has yet to issue a TRO, Mr. Concepcion's testimony could be heard.

The COPW Chair was **shocked when the lawyers** of Shell, Petron and Caltex **walked out prior to his testimony.**

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you agree that Congress must amend the Oil Deregulation Law immediately?

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RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

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THE HEART Aquino International Airport is back in operation on Monday after the Area Control Center Radar Console broke down due to a power failure on Sunday, causing delays or cancelation of more than a dozen domestic and international flights.

GROUND INSPECTION President Macapagal-Arroyo tiptoes through a field in Barangay Dampil with Lubao lady front her aides during a visit to Pantabangan, Pampanga, on Monday, on her mid-term infrastructure projects that will help local residents in two villages she visited recover from the damage wrought by typhoons "Labuyo" and "Pepeng." (See story on Page A2.)

Radar has only 10-year life span, expired in '06

Front page A1

Frances Perez

"Our system should have been replaced in 2005, but because of the processes that we had to go through, it is only now that we are starting to put in place the new system," Soto said.

Malacañang said the House of Representatives ordered an inquiry into the two-hour breakdown that as of early morning yesterday had affected around 60 international and domestic flights, the worst technical glitch to hit Naia in recent memory.

Airport officials apologized to travelers but nevertheless downplayed the incident and traced the problem to Naia's erratic power supply and aging equipment.

Power ratio over the past week led to a power fluctuation that stopped the radar, forcing the aviation authorities to cancel or reroute flights, stranding thousands, Bataa said.

Officials conceded the episode had come at a bad moment, with US authorities set to review the nation's aviation safety standards.

The disruption came just a month ahead of an audit by the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to evaluate safety standards across the Philippines, three years after it downgraded the country's rating to category two—meaning its aviation sector had failed to meet international safety rules.

"This is one of the things they (FAA) will have to look into," Bataa said, referring to Saturday's incident. "It's just very unfortunate that our back-up system failed."

The downgrade to category two in 2007 smarted flag carrier Philippine Airlines' flights to the United States, and prompted the government to create the CAAP.

A Palace official cited the fresh black eye on the country's image as a result of Sunday's disruption.

Not good experience

"It was supposed to be a beautiful experience to come here to the Philippines. But even before [tourists] could enter the airport, that's what happened," said deputy presidential spokesperson Anthony Soto. "It's not a very good experience for the tourists, especially the first timers."

"What is most important in this issue is to let the chips fall where they may," Soto said. "We will find out the people responsible for this because this goes against the principle of giving safety in our passengers."

Speaker Prospero Nograles sought an explanation from the CAAP concerning what he called "a huge international embarrassment to our country's airport safety."

Nograles ordered the House special oversight committee to look not only into the technical factors—the Naia's "ill-maintained and frequent" back-up systems—but also into the repeated "grandstlings and infighting" among aviation personnel.

He said the committee, for example, should look into complaints coming from some long-time employees who were supposedly being eased out to favor of "many bright recruitments."

While apologizing to passengers for the inconvenience, the CAAP said the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) maintained that many airports around the world encounter similar problems.

'Wear and tear'

CAAP officials traced the breakdown to fluctuations in the Naia complex's power supply. Miaa officials said the "wear and tear" of old equipment used at the CAAP-run control tower was more to blame.

The fluctuations "triggered a chain reaction that partially affected communications links with pilots and the air traffic center, including a temporary power loss that affected the long-range radar display system," Bataa said in a statement.

But Octavio Lina, Miaa assistant general manager for operations, said it was the CAAP's aging radar equipment that were unable to withstand the erratic power supply.

Lina stressed: "This is not an excuse, what happened here is really the wear and tear of our equipment. Problems like these really happen in technical facilities like these."

State General Manager Alberto Cusi denied reports (not in the Inquirer) that a "blackout" crippled the radar service. "It was more of a technical problem," he explained.

A total of 84 flights, mostly domestic, had been canceled or delayed by the time Naia operations returned to normal at around 7 a.m. yesterday.

13-year-old equipment

"All flights are being serviced as scheduled. We thank the public for their cooperation and understanding," Cusi said.

CAAP Director General Reben Cinco said air traffic controllers first reported the problem as early as 2 p.m. on Sunday. The agency notified airlines about the disruption at around 3:30 p.m., or an hour and a half later.

The radar service was partially restored at around 4:30 p.m. after the Miaa installed a new power supply system. Take-offs and landings resumed, though still at a limited scale, about an hour later.

According to Bataa, the incident happened at a time when the CAAP and its sister agency, the Department of Transportation and Communications, are in the process of replacing Naia's radar and power infrastructure, which included pieces of hardware as old as 13 years.

On April 13 this year, Naia suffered a 14-hour interruption when electronic equipment at the check-in counters, boarding gates and transfer desks bogged down.

The problem was then traced to a fiber optic cable malfunction. With reports from Christine F. Zagsen-ya and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

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Ping drops bomb on Erap

From page A1

presidential bid of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Lacson announced the need for the "straight and proper to prevail."

He said Estrada had constructed "burlesque into selling his PLDT shares in August 1998 to Pangilinan's group, the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., which eventually gained control of the telecommunications firm. [See 'What Went Before' on Page A10.]

Sinister behavior

The transaction showed Estrada's "sober manner behavioral patterns" that Lacson said "must be told to the Filipino people."

"In August 2008, in the early part of Mr. Estrada's abbreviated presidency, Mr. Alfonso Yuchengco runs pursuant to sign the consequence of the 37.5% percent PHC (Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp.) holdings, equivalent to 14,750 shares to Mrs. Pardo, represented by Manuel Pangilinan," Lacson said.

He said these PTIC holdings corresponded to 6,000,000 PLDT common shares. PTIC at the time holds the biggest single block at 21 percent of the telephone giant. [Before the deal with Yuchengco, First Pacific had finalized the sales agreement on only 17 percent of PTIC—16 percent from the Gokongwei family and 1 percent from Antonio Ithao. First Pacific could not touch the balance of 46 percent of PTIC shares because these were owned by the formerly sequestered Prime Holdings Inc., a shell company owned by the Marcoses, which was being recovered by the government.]

Lacson said he learned later that Yuchengco was "pressed to sign a waiver of his right of first refusal over the PTIC shares of the Gokongwei-Ithao group."

Trumped-up drug charges

The senator said he learned years later that Estrada, three days months into his administration, had used the PNP to harass Yuchengco's son Tito "with threats of arrest on some trumped-up drug charges to force his father, Mr. Yuchengco, to sell."

Lacson said he learned that the Yuchengcos were angry at him in the mistaken belief that Estrada had ordered him to harass them so that the patriarch would sell his shares.

The senator said he was not aware of what had happened until lately. "And if the example, Mr. Estrada would order me to do such thing, I am certain I will not follow him," Lacson said.

Corporate genius

"The biggest and most important question was revealed: What was the deal in pesos and centavos between Mr. Estrada and Mr. Pangilinan, if any? Or should we rather ask, 'How much was involved?'" he said.

Estrada's friend Mark

Jimenez reportedly brokered the $750-million PLDT takeover and got a $30-million commission for it. Jimenez denied getting such amount.

Lacson also unveiled Estrada's frightening hint in the Ilocos Cordillera murders and turned the tables on him.

Pointing out that Estrada had claimed he never dealt with officials rather than the heads of agencies during his presidency, Lacson said this was not true.

"He, on so many occasions, I have personal knowledge on this, during his presidency, he was giving orders and instructions deep into the layers of the entire government bureaucracy, the PNP and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force," Lacson said.

Opian Delta

The senator made the statement as he lashed out at Estrada for accusing him of "supervising" recent testimony on an alleged appearance called Opian Delta, which was aimed at implicating Duero.

Lacson also derided he knew about the operation, saying he only learned about it in the newspapers recently. "Instead of just defending himself, why does he have to point a finger at someone else?" he asked.

Lacson has repeatedly denied involvement in the murders in which his former police aides Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao II and Glen Dumlao had been charged.

The case is being tried now in the Manila Regional Trial Court and is being investigated by the Department of Justice into their whereabout had implicated both Lacson and Estrada in the murders.

Illegal numbers games

Lacson said his relationship with Estrada soured since he took over as PNP chief in 1998 because the former President had wanted operations of the ilegal numbers game jueteng to continue under his watch.

He spoke of two occasions when Estrada had asked him to allow jueteng to continue without interference from authorities.

The first one was in June 1998 when Estrada talked to him and what he expected to be told of his appointment as PNP chief.

But Lacson said Estrada spoke about jueteng and how he intended to deal with it during his presidency.

"He said, 'Peng, recommendation on jueteng, 'bookies, governors and mayors, especially those who helped me in the election, don't have funds like the President's social fund from Pagcor. They have lots of expenses and it's only from jueteng where they can get money," Lacson said in Filipino.

He said he was shocked and told Estrada that jueteng was illegal and that the latter should not to get into it because it would destroy them both.

Estrada brought up again jueteng to Lacson on the eve of his appointment as PNP chief on Nov. 18, 1998.

At Sagittarius Highlands in Cavite, Estrada told Lacson "very seriously" on the need for them to allow jueteng to continue because many people were dependent on it, the senator said.

On that same day, Estrada later announced in Malacañang that he was naming Lacson as PNP chief but the lawmaker still pressed him on jueteng.

Jueteng payola

Lacson recalled that he had told Estrada he did not want to have anything to do with the P3-million monthly jueteng payola being given by Singson to the PNP chief.

He said he learned five months after his appointment that Estrada had asked Singson to remit the payola intended for the PNP chief.

Lacson said his life started to become "miserable" when he launched an antijueteng campaign. "(For the most part of the second half of the year 2000, I was not welcome in the Palace due to my differences with President Estrada over the issue of jueteng," he said.

Lacson said there were subsidiaries and that he would "deal directly with top subordinates at the PAGCOR (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) Task Force) and the PNP, which I both headed in concurrent capacity."

He said Estrada had even issued an order to then Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim taking away from him the authority to appoint and remove police officials down to the provincial director level.

The ouster, he said, was aimed at making the antijueteng operation fail.

Lacson said Sen. Francis Escudero will later have that false E, which toppled Estrada in January 2001, "would not have happened if I were along with Mr. Estrada and Governor Singson and altogether subverted jueteng operations.

"Only when Governors Bingo I hall was converted to legalize jueteng and the ceased the breaking between Estrada and Singson and eventually led to a second people power uprising in 2001," Lacson said.

Chicken parts, rice

Lacson also claimed that Estrada had intervened in the release of smuggled shipments of dressed chicken parts from China and the United States as well as smuggled rice in Cebu.

He said Estrada had told him to let pull out the ban, which were making out a shipment of dressed chicken parts coming from near the Manila Hotel, after telling him his turn were his viewing people there.

The shipment was eventually released. Lacson said he pointed out that out to Estrada's in front told him that he should have not pulled out his turn.

He said he got dismayed by this because he realized that Estrada's order for him to fight crime and corruption was just a "one-way street" (just for show).

He said that in August 2000, he learned that Estrada had ordered a subordinate at PAGCOP to release a shipment of smuggled rice.

Lacson said he would deliver another privilege speech on Monday to expose Estrada further this time based on investigations he made.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

IN NOVEMBER 1998, A SOURCE (whether because that then-President Joseph Estrada had dropped the idea stalled attempt of the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. (today Axel Philippines Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

The source said Estrada had directed Mayor Alfonso Yuchengco to stop stalling on whether to sell to First Pacific his 7-percent share in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), which held the single biggest block in PLDT (21 percent).

First Pacific was planning to take control of the PLDT by acquiring almost 51 percent of PTIC.

Later that month, First Pacific chairman Manuel Pangilinan replacing Roberto Ongpin Jr. as PLDT president and chief executive officer.

Estrada's friend Mark Jimenez reportedly brokered the $750-million PLDT takeover and got a $30-million commission for it. Jimenez denied getting such an amount.

Estrada called Jimenez a "corporate genius" for pushing the "deal of the century."

Inquirer Research
Source: Inquirer Archives

PLDT takeover aboveboard, says Pangilinan's lawyer

THE LAWYER OF MANUEL V. Pangilinan yesterday said the businessman's takeover of the country's largest telecommunications firm 11 years ago was aboveboard.

In a statement, Roy C. Espiritu said he acted in legal counsel of Pangilinan and First Pacific Group in connection with the purchase of PTIC shares from various shareholders, including the group of Alfonso Yuchengco.

"The sale and purchase transaction was a commercially negotiated deal, the purchase price was at a premium above the then stock market price of the underlying PLDT shares," Espiritu said.

He said the conclusion of the sale and purchase transaction, Pangilinan and PLDT have had good relations with the Yuchengco group.

"For the last 11 years since MVP took over PLDT, BCBC, a universal bank owned and controlled by the Yuchengco Group, has been a major lender of the PLDT Group," he said.

"For the last 11 years too, Philcom Insurance, an insurance company owned and controlled by the Yuchengco Group, has been the property insurer of the entire PLDT Group."

Helen Y. Dee, a daughter of Yuchengco, remains a director of PLDT and the MVP Group has been fully supporting her election to the PLDT board every year, Espiritu said.

"These are the facts, and these be easily gleaned from them facts that the transaction was above board," he concluded.

Inquirer tried to contact the Yuchengco group for their reaction to the statement as of press time.—Paulit L. Luna

SEN. PANFILO Lacson delivers privilege speech lambasting former President Joseph Estrada as Senate Pro-Tempore Jinggoy Estrada listens. Estrada later talked to the floor to denounce Lacson's speech as "a clear vilification drive against my father." AMY COMA

Jinggoy: Lies Ping told about my father

By Michael Lim Ubac

FOLLOWING THE PRIVILEGE speech of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the son of former President Joseph Estrada, Senate President Pro-Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, took the floor to denounce what he said was "a clear vilification drive against my father."

Senator Estrada refused to interpellate Lacson.

"I don't wish to dignify his privilege speech through interpellations. As far as I am concerned, they are all lies. And I will deliver a privilege speech tomorrow," said the young Estrada.

"Sana if this gentleman does not start spreading lies about my father, I will tell that truth about the person of Senator Lacson," he said.

Point by point

Senator Estrada promised to deliver his own privilege speech today and answer Lacson's accusations against his father "point by point."

In an ambush interview during a break in yesterday's session, he took time to clarify some of the issues raised by Lacson.

"Of course, he is out to destroy my father. It's just supposed why all of a sudden he delivered a privilege speech destroying the credibility and reputation of President Estrada."

Hearsay

On the smuggling accusation, the young Estrada said his father "never interfered in smuggling happening in the port. I don't know where he got his information."

"I am not aware. I'm not privy to their conversations... it might be hearsay. I seldom go to Malacañang during my father's presidency," he said.

The senator accused Lacson of diverting the issue because of the latter's alleged involvement in the Dacer-Corbito case.

Estrada says Lacson a liar, will defend father in speech today

From page A1

Estrada said that when he was president, he did not control police officials behind Lacson's back, noting that they were all directly under the latter's supervision.

Lacson was the head of the Philippine National Police when Estrada was the Chief Executive.

The former President said Lacson's statement that he received money from jueteng was proven untrue during his plunder trial.

Estrada said the money went to the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation to fund the education of underprivileged Muslim students.

Estrada was ousted in 2001 and was convicted of plunder in September 2007. President Macapagal-Arroyo granted him a pardon that same year, freeing him from the prison of house arrest in Tanay, Rizal.

"He accused me of smuggling and jueteng involvement. If he disliked my governance, he should have resigned (as police chief). There is no truth to what he said," Estrada said.

He said he had told Lacson to prioritize peace and order, kidnapping, car theft and illegal drugs. "I told him that if we eliminate jueteng, we should give jobs for those who will be jobless. A hungry stomach knows no law."

He said he had wanted to legalize jueteng, even asking Philippine Gaming Corp. to study how to do it.

As to the allegations that he supervised the surveillance on the son of businessman Alfonso Yuchengco and that he had knowledge of the plan to kill publicist Bobby Ilusorio, Estrada said: "I don't know anything."

If Lacson is in cahoots with the Arroyo administration to bring him down, that is just speculation, Estrada said.

He said the recent campaign against him would not bring down his popularity or drag down the opposition's chances in the 2010 elections.

"There is no truth to what he is saying. The people are intelligent enough to know this," he said.

Estrada's son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, said there was nothing new in Lacson's speech.

"The same old issues were the same lies that caused President Erap's imprisonment. Does Senator Lacson want to cover again past in jail President Erap?" Ejercito said.

"All the issues he raised against President Erap were the same lies used then in 2001 by syndicates and panchito that put Gloria in power and that caused the suffering of the Filipino people since 2001," he said.

Another activist seized, and ma bent on finding him

By Nikko Dizon

THE MOTHER OF NIT ANOTHER missing activist turned yesterday to exhaust all means to find her son, 26-year-old Noriel Rodriguez, who was reportedly abducted by suspected military agents in Enrile, Cagayan, last week.

Wilma Rodriguez appealed to her son's captors to release him.

Noriel was affiliated with Anakbayan and had gone to Cagayan as part of the group's peasant integration program, a program that involves medical missions, literacy classes and peasant organizing work.

Anakbayan chairman Renato said Noriel was the 15th Anakbayan member who had either been abducted or killed under the Arroyo administration. Among them were University of the Philippines students Jhoelyn Cadapan and Karen Empeso, missing since 2006.

Citing a report from the human rights group Karapatan, Saroza said Noriel was reportedly seized at gunpoint by four men in civilian clothes at around 5 p.m. in Sitio Sta. Isabel, Barangay Dupil in Gonzaga.

WILMA RODRIGUEZ holds up a poster demanding the release of her activist son Noriel who was allegedly abducted by four armed men in civilian clothes on Sept. 6 in Gonzaga, Cagayan. RAFFY LERMA

Anakbayan said in a statement the abduction were "suspected elements of the 17th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army stationed in the province.

"We see nine has the capacity to do this but the military," Saroza said.

Noriel's mother said the man set to go to Cagayan to look for her son, who she last spoke to days before his abduction.

"Anbesagan do nitapi ayo (I will really look for him)," Wilma Rodriguez said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

Nothing wrong

She said she found nothing wrong with her son's activities that merely help the poor.

"My son has done nothing wrong. He was not armed. Why did they have to do this to him?" she said.

She also said that she missed her six sons so he returned, God-fearing and good citizens. Noriel is her fourth son.

"I did not raise them to be bad people," she said in Filipino.

Anakbayan condemned Rodriguez's disappearance, saying "this incident proves yet again the guilty of the Arroyo regime of employing extrajudicial means to silence progressive individuals whose only advocacy is the advancement of people's welfare."

Jonne Burgos, one of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos, was another activist abducted by suspected military agents several years back. He has yet to be found.

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Insurgency has killed over 3,000, says AFP

By Tarra Quismundo

MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE have been killed in the last eight years of the government's anti-insurgency operations as the military reported it has reduced the communist movement to nearly a tenth of its size in three decades.

Some 1,476 members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), were slain in military operations and internal purges from 2001 to this year, figures from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) showed.

The deaths included rebels slain in clashes with government troops and those purportedly killed by their own comrades, said AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr.

Clashes also left 339 civilians dead, including three caught in crossfire, Brawner said. The civilian death toll was highest in 2006 and 2007, when more than 120 noncombatants died, he said.

More than 1,000 government troops, meanwhile, were killed in the last eight years, with 2003 and 2006 the deadliest years for soldiers killed in operations and ambushes attributed to the NPA.

The military only had figures from 2001 Brawner said most of the anti-insurgency reports were destroyed in fire in the coops in the 1990s, while documents from the '70s were not available for updated reports.

The military also noted a decrease in the CPP-NPA's strength, down to some 5,000 from an estimated peak of 25,000 in the '80s, he said.

"Their forces now are in areas where there is a lot of economic activity, where they can continue with extortion, for instance Compostela Valley where there is mining, areas where there is logging," said Brawner.

The CPP-NPA presence is known to be more pronounced in the mountainous provinces around Luzon, the Bicol region, eastern Visayas and northeastern Mindanao.

"We have also freed a lot of provinces [from the NPA] like Marinduque," said Brawner.

Per the AFP count, some 3,671 persons surrendered to the government from 2001 to the first half of this year, many encouraged to return to the fold of the law through the military's "social reintegration" program.

The government is pursuing peace negotiations with the CPP's political wing, the National Democratic Front, but threats for the resumption of talks appeared bleak recently due to the communists' insistence to ensure the government release some jailed colleagues who will serve on the rebels' peace panel.

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

Favila warns against extorting inspectors

By Amy R. Remo

TRADE SECRETARY PETER B. Favila has warned the public about "bogus" government inspectors out to extort money in the guise of checking a company's products.

"We at the Department of Trade and Industry would like to reassure a warning to the public, especially those engaged in business, that although DTI has monitoring and enforcement teams who make sure consumers are protected and businesses comply with the law, these teams do not request money or ask in any way authorized to do so in the discharge of violations," Favila said in a statement.

The DTI-National Capital Region office had received reports of monitoring and enforcement teams going around inspecting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) dealerships.

Complainants said a man calling himself George Gutierrez would introduce himself as the team leader and offer not to confiscate the "violative goods" in exchange of P18,000, according to the DTI.

"It is unfortunate that bogus men managed to extort P10,000 from one LPG retailer," Favila said.

He said that under Department Order 45 or the DTI's General Enforcement Guidelines, "mediation and alternative dispute resolution do not apply during monitoring and enforcement activities, therefore, the enforcement team and alleged violator are not allowed to negotiate."

He said violations are not subject to any form of bargaining or settlement.

"If there is a finding that goods or products or the business itself do not conform to the requirements of a relevant trade and industry law such as the Consumer Act, a notice of violation shall be prepared and signed by the head of the enforcement team and have to be signed and received by a representative of the establishment," Favila said.

He said that in the case of injurious, dangerous and unsafe products, a seizure order shall be issued immediately in accordance with the Consumer Act.

"Government officials and employees should not request or take money, gifts or favors, especially from clients. This is illegal and a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, which is grounds for the filing of administrative and criminal charges," he said.

The identity of an inspector may be confirmed by calling the DTI at 751-3330, Monday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or Regalado Maristela at 0917-8604573, he said.

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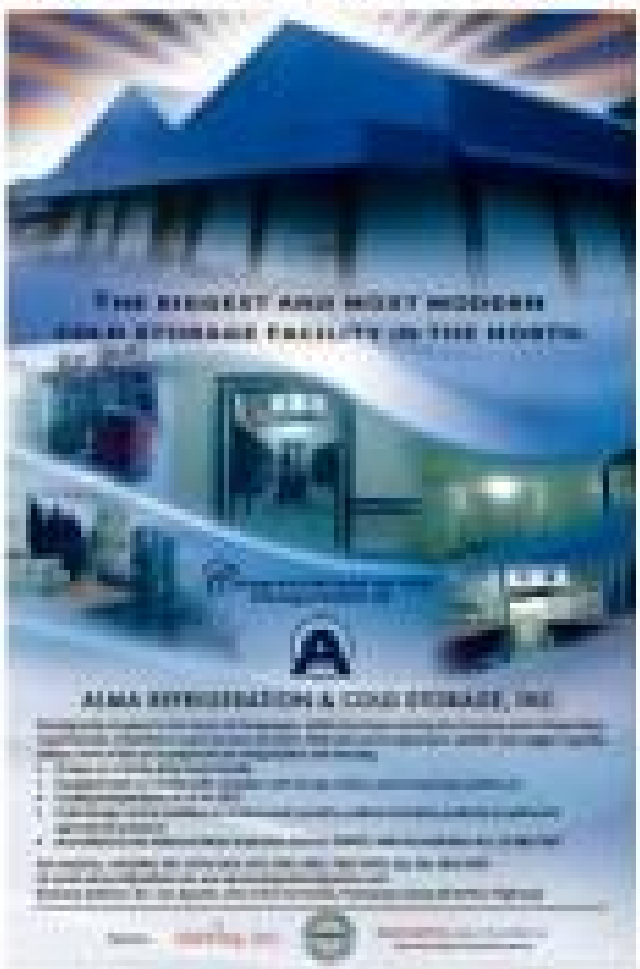

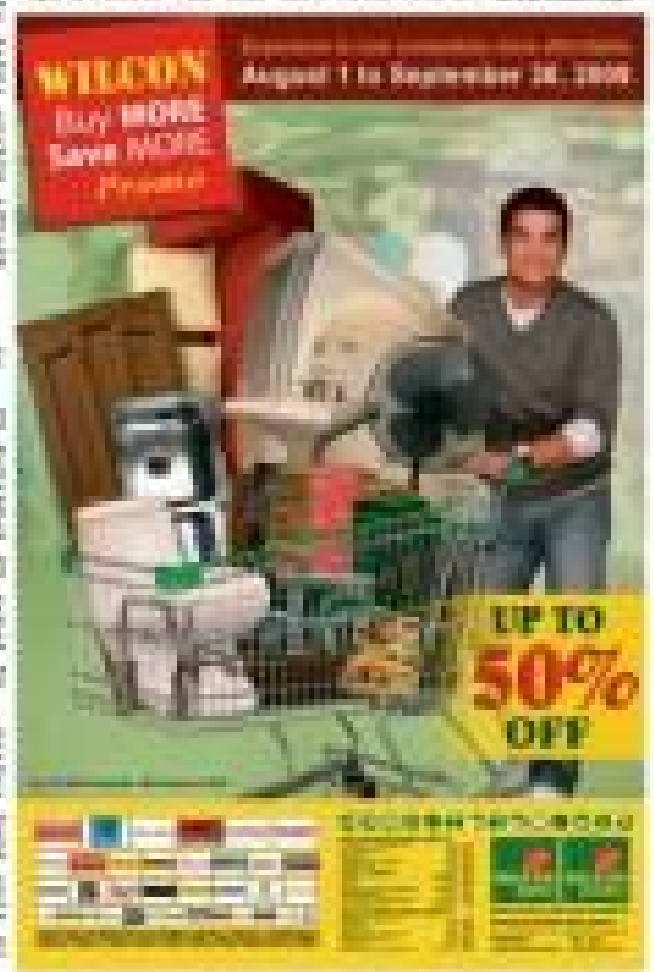

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OPINION

Access denied

EDITORIAL

A MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR RECENTLY ISSUED by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez would make it difficult for people to get copies of the Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth of government officials. It is the latest move of the Arroyo administration to hamper access to information on matters of public concern.

The memorandum is unconstitutional and understandable. Unconstitutional because the Constitution recognizes "the right of the people to information on matters of public concern." Understandable because information is the oxygen of democracy; the citizens of a democratic nation cannot form intelligent opinions and make wise decisions unless they have the necessary information on which they can base their judgments on matters that affect them.

The Office of the Ombudsman apparently issued the memorandum circular to prevent the further release of damaging information about the property acquisitions of Rep. Jose Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, one of the sons of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The younger Arroyo disclosed in national television on Sept. 1 that his net worth increased from P6.7 million in 2001 to P74.4 million in 2004 and to P95.2 million in 2008 partly because of campaign contributions and wedding gifts.

Many people, including media people who interviewed him on TV, did not find his explanation credible and acceptable. Professional Game, president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees, observed that the congressman failed to submit to the Commission on Elections a detailed statement of his campaign contributions and expenditures 30 days after the election as required by law. How much did he receive in campaign contributions, and how much was left after he had paid for campaign expenses? We do not know; he has not given the Comelec and the people a detailed accounting.

The memorandum of the Ombudsman is not the first administration move to hinder and restrict the public's access to information, nor it is going to be the last. Former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc Joc" Bolante, the main witness in the Senate inquiry into the P728-million fertilizer scam, disappeared just before the committee on agriculture could open the probe. The commonly held suspicion was that the money was spent mainly to help fund the campaign of many candidates for national and local posts in the 2004 elections. Bolante, who had flown to the United States, was later deported back to the Philippines and appeared at a Senate hearing where he denied 8th Arroyo of involvement in the fertilizer scandal.

Former Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, concurrently director of the National Economic and Development Authority, was stopped from giving more details about the controversial $329-million NBN-ZTE deal and was cold to plead executive privilege. That prevented the Senate and the people from getting vital information about the project. Up to what level did the attempted bribery reach in this transaction? People have their suspicions, but are not able to know the whole truth because of the plea of "executive privilege."

People, and even senators, are frustrated at every turn in their attempt to obtain information on matters of public interest. Government officials are required to file Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth every year precisely to allow the people to find out if their officials are enriching themselves while in office. There is the presumption that if the net worth of an official is grossly out of proportion to his or her declared salary, that official must be engaged in some questionable practices. It is up to him to prove that he acquired his new wealth honestly.

In the 1989 case of Mahonono v. Belmonte, the Supreme Court said that in our republican system of government, "government agencies and institutions operate within the limits of the authority conferred by the people. Denied access to information on the inner workings of government, the citizenry can become prey to the whims and caprices of those to whom power has been delegated."

Gutierrez's memorandum circular on the SALNs has no place in a free, democratic nation whose citizens should enjoy access to information on matters of public concern. We urge her to withdraw it immediately.

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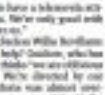
Convenient amnesia

VIEWPOINT



Juan L. Mercado

"EL GRUESO PROSPERO NOGBALUZE APPLICT ed by convenient amnesia?" asks Carolina Cama, 38, of Barrio One "Carinosa at the gate" (Inquirer, 8/29/09) raised expenses that the President and 20 cooperators ended up on a five-day US safari in lavish restaurants.

"I hailed the Speaker's decision that House members must first reimburse for this junket. Expenses must not be charged to such congressman's PI million a year travel allowance. But policy would not be ex-post facto controversy."

"But some solons have raised many issues," Camara testified. He wonders how some nobody shouldered in advance the lawmakers' expenses. But he didn't know who paid up front.

"In this jaded town, no one hosts a multi-million-peso bill without asking," the doctor noted. "So, did the Speaker invoke his constitutional right against self-incrimination? Like cancer, the ignorance has metastasized."

Camara also wants "Rep. Bienvenido Abante gained notoriety for that offensive right-of-reply bill, directed solely to the editors by swearing: [a] he didn't put a single centavo for his plane fare and hotel expenses, and [b] he too didn't know who paid for it.

"Should a bill be sent to the House for the trap, I'll decide it equally among the 20 who went," Camara suggested. While House grew a bill, I will get accordingly."

"In my dim calendar, I've ticked off the 27 days zero since Speaker Nograles issued that pledge. Up to now, no honest note the total trip of bill, let alone how it was divvied up. Either our senators are mum. Or ignorance has metastasized. Yet one to an answer, Mr. would be Supreme Court justice. This is one tax money."

Visayan's "Tess Antonio" Zulueta, 8/4/09, compared Gonzaga Aquino to Sherma's doing "last Hero Ho," Ramon Magsaysay Hospital's father, a nurse at St. Joseph's Institute in Singapore, never that he professed to measure Gloria Macapagal Arroyo against Cory. He never is it. Ibid, "The Soul of the Orient is pink."

Alas, the nation is cursed, this young man from Legaspi argues. "Deeply influenced by

continued, "Every Filipino mind preclude the inherently mentality ... A country only weeks if its people make it work such as others are true, as one nation, during Cory's term. Do what you have to do as an active spirited voter with a backbone for change."

Wednesday Midnebring! HOUSES, 9/2/09) noted that Sen. Benigno Aquino III's decision to seek the presidency may set the 2010 elections become a battle between two elite-run dubbs contesting. That does worse like Ignacio at Aquino's compelling image of "two standards."

Medical secretary and current survivor Antonio Lucero e-mailed: "I pray that are deserve rightly as a people this time. And, if by the hand of God, Noynoy is raised up to the presidency in 2010, a discreet restoration of Hacienda should be a requisite."

From Cagayan de Oro Walter F. Bonaventoy wrote that "Pinangalang Malacañang" reminded of him of "mud and from Canada." It was once described as "two cultures at war in the bosom of a single state." That inspired that Canada's disaster of success, like the Philippines of today, were inverted.

"It is like inside-out of society. On Philippines has been doomed a bit longer than Canada," Bonaventoy argued. "I've found here for more ten years now. There is a vibrancy and vigor I have not sensed in Australia or Canada, which have a great deal more amateur and alternative."

It's true, he said, that "the intolerable, the impossible is the only one that will remove the sickness of misery." Maybe history's thought at its last 20 years, due to "ordinary" people. Nelson Mandela gained his freedom, then changed South Africa's destiny. So did Bishop Belo and Jose Ramos Horta and the people of Timor Leste, Lech Walesa and Solidarity in Poland, and Cory Aquino here.

"Change is not the prepared mind. But how does one have a 'prepared mind'? By keeping it open to new possibilities. The days of fatalism and hubris are are over. We will stand or spread at best swiftly change or no more."

(E-mail: jlmerc@inquirer.com.ph and jlmerc@gmail.com)

'May araw din tayo'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SAMI MO, SAMI OLIVAR, MAGPAKAILANMAN SI Noynoy. Sami mo rin ayong pumalag ang buong mundo, tulad noong pumalag ang buong mundo sa dapat pinagsisi ni pabilis ang utos sab sang "Good vs. Evil" or "Kabutihan laban sa Kasamaan."

"Bisyong kapatid, ito nasy ka lang sa sabsang "matuwid." Di ka pasaway kung pinaninindigan pag nagpapatay ka kung ano ang nasyon at ano ang hindi. Hindi ka ito nagpapatay in many ka rin kung sa pagbantasan na ibang tao na mag-pakilala, bukulo ka lang magaling eday tungkol dyan sa kung ano ang mabuti.

Bisyon pa kung mas maraming tawo sa mga mo kay Noynoy? Obvious naman na ang pinaninindigan tawo ay ang kabutihan; nacho-cha-pagsasabing "mag ilang pagsisi, o makikipagsapalaran, na bahan kung tawag nang labels. Kung tawo lang ang kabutihan, ang sasunod na lang kayo ng pin kinagaling sa mundo. "Ilang mandarong kaili-isang "pin-oy mana-pid nang Binatawan ng tanungkayan sa mga mg mentors's gawapan dahil sa mabubong pagbigay sa kabutihan. Kanyan angpinangpad sa mga bahan, na mas ang mga kabigan kung bahan.

Kung kung naman ang nakikiusap ng kabuso-hihala sa sumapit ito. Lahat naman ang Noynoy ay nakikiusap kung ang tama o mali sa maging inyo. Inyo pinag-sinungalo dit lang nasky ang bahay ni Jacinto. Ang sabi ko sa kanya, "Kung ang hiniling sayong nakakabuti para ng dating tawo ang mga tawo ng mga tawo sa kanya? Sabi naman din sa ang angking tawo sa bahay, di kasali na ang mga kapitbahay, at sa naman ay hindi nakabuti-tao ang mga tawo. Yan ay si Cory.

At pinagsisihan ko ang kanyang sinig kalaki at bahay, sana naman ang mo sabi na ya na ang bawa mo ay bahay? Dahil gaila na gaila na ninanais ni 'kin ng mga kabigan kung bahay. "Hindi namin kasalanan yan."

Tinanong kami ng angel ng "Good vs. Evil" ang sabong ang mo.

Hiniling na tayong maging tao ya at dito sabin na lang. Ang buo mo ay nanangahig. Ano ba ang mabuting mangyayari sa mabuhay ang ang mapasawi-mali. Sabong nakakabuti ka ang mga mabuti. Sabong nakakabuti ka nang maganda kung kaniya. Sino tayo ka ang mas mayaman na kinabuhay dahaw ng ano sa

ganyan din ang pasing? Sino ka ang kanyanan ng Kung ano ano sa New York at nagsabing: (1) Di mangyari yan. (2) Nangyari man pero di ganun ang hal. (3) Ganun ang hal pero a libreto Bumalabay naman ang nagbayad. (4) Hoo kung yan dahil nanay naman nagpakanan?

Sino ba ang nagsabing hindi ma-swabe sa 2010?

Sa Lakbayan bando, sito si Noynoy na pinakabisang manyan ng mga nagsigang. Nagsabing mag-dahan, tapos magkakaisa-isa. Magkasi, tapos magkakaisa. Bang ano'ng sinabi, yun ang gusto. Pananaan nalasan siguro nanggangalit si GI'ma dumating nang mangs-pero-wala-lato. Pero pinyak na nang pinakapasala-isa.

Ang ang kanyang mo dyan? Di ba Tama laban sa Mali? Di ba Makatwiran laban sa Hiko? Di ba Good vs. Evil?

Ang lang mo ay mambasyo. Sino ba ang pasalo sila na manawang kay Cairo upang labanan ang mga kasamaan sa mundo? Di ba, mga ang hal, (1) Gaanan ang hal? para a libreto Bumalabay naman ang nagbayad,

Doing the right thing for the wrong reason

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TOMORROW THE ADMINISTRATION COALition will submit its presidential candidate and the likely choice will be Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro, since Vice President Noli de Castro has been withdrawn from the television process and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando seems unable to withstand the pressure. (Fernando has been ordered by the enforcement of 50 government cars from an original 69 last week) and even the weekend. In order, got the support of the League of Provincial Board Members. Reports say the League of City Governors under Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, he is poised to follow suit. But will all this support pull up Teodoro from the bottom in surveys?

What Teodoro's nomination will be is now being deliberated by his handlers, but there's a consensus that it should be "presidential" and not "political." Gibo's most appeal to Gibo's either image as a brainy individual (1969 bar topnotcher, UP College of Law highest dean's award, Harvard master of laws, etc.) leaves no doubt.

* * *

The Nacionalista People's Coalition has nominated members next Wednesday, Sept. 23, reportedly to select its own candidates and the issue is that it will be a Gibo Teodoro-Loren Legarda tandem. Earlier it seemed that if this tandem materializes, it would put NPC boss Edgardo Cojuangco Jr. in a bind. Politicians across the country will be asking who he is endorsing. Sensitive when the two aspirants are members of his own party, Nacionalista Senators, and his second-degree nephew Brigmay Aquino. Observers note that this would be very too obligation. There's also the recent endorsement by Rep. Rodolfo Cojuangco (Ted) his father to nothing and instead remained in the US, which would hinder his participation in the campaign. The Enrileans will doubtless rally to its favorite son, but can his campaign be sustained by industrialist Lucio Tan and the Ilocanos at Cabalo-dentes?

* * *

Sen. Manny Villar has revived the Nacionalista Party and its problem is packing whose it will field in his running-mate. Another is his wife Dr. Cayetano will run with Villar, which should not be surprising since they have been good friends since their Senate days. De Castro appears to have dropped his presidential ambitions after 450,000 plus showed him for Liberal Party candidate Sonsoy Aquino, who now appears to have eaten into Villar's main base in Luzon, based on the latest surveys.

Villar was quoted in the hoopoes using unchristian-ally wrong language when he smirked the "arrogant," "self-righteous" and "elitist" groups around Noynoy who have painted the campaign as between "good and evil" and saying all dissenters are the "moral garbage" of the country. He said it is actually a contest "between the rich and the poor" where the son of a diving senator number should have as much chance as those of elite families. His denunciation found echo in Senate colleague Jinggoy Estrada who said that from 14 surrounding Noynoy among his pet peeves. That groups attest was that the feeling is mutual, but some people are nervous for Noynoy because of his manipulative narrative.

Villar also claimed that Noynoy's climb was due to his unceasing exposure in mass media. Its ass doubtless referring primarily to ABS-CBN which, after playing up for many weeks the late President Aquino's illness and passing, adversely reduced a lot of attention to her son only after it would be turned into political capital. It should be noted that many people are shocked... and frightened—by the giant network's all-out campaign for the UP candidate, which has once again elevated its image as King-maker, especially given the media's inability to discern issues.

* * *

If the forces around Noynoy choose to paint the campaign as a battle between good and evil, they should do some rethinking, especially given some of their leaders have their own actions to answer for. But nowhere will this issue be highlighted than in the Hacienda Luisita controversy where the Cojuangco-Aquino family has been battling with farmers for decades. Then, the Mendiola massacre of Jan. 22, 1987 where scores of Negros sugarcane farmers, who sought to bring the tenancy issue to the doorstep of the new Presidential, perhaps due to the fact that her family was one of the biggest landowners, were killed by uniformed gunmen, would dominate figure again in the campaign, as will the killing of a number of sugar mill workers and the wounding of scores of others in November 2004 at Luisita's gate. There's also President Cory's saying for a crash diet's sake that Luisita was overpriced by only 5,000 or 6,000 hectares, which was denounced by Sen. Joan Ponce Enrile as an attempt to circumvent her supposed contemporary legislation, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

* * *

Noynoy now says his family may give up Luisita because of its continuing labor problems and mounting debts. But leaders of peasant organizations say he's doing the right thing for the wrong reasons. They point out that only 5,000 of the farmer-stakeholder's family purposes to do. Still it will the estate, which has the combined size of Makati and being to forego investment. Or will they have the block reallocated to their names or social justice considerations? There are more than 6,000 farmers from saying so is the five-year extension of CARP.

The Luisita labor disputes may be the reason Noynoy is said to have never won them. Edwin Ilon Secretary Jack Lapira, who plans to run for Senate, recalls that Cojuangco's second daughter, Teodora and he started their congressional careers together in Tarlac in 1998. In this and two other elections, Lapira and Teodora managed to be proclaimed each by "subsequently-declared" margins of "fifty votes." He did not settle a high a second his today was to him suggesting that for you former colleagues ought to quit the race and let him (Lapira) run for president instead since he's "a winner" and more experienced in management than they.

Another view on transplants

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN REACTION TO MY LATEST COLUMN ON organ transplantation, Jo. Alberto Chua, a nephrologist and the executive vice president of Asian Hospital, wrote to inquire how "the director of NKTI (Dr. Enrique Ona), the government special [hospital for Kidney Disease, seems not to be fully supportive of the government's policy of promoting deceased donation and living donation [organ] transplant." Instead, says Chua, "what Ona and Mike Romero, a former congressman and currently vice chair of the Kidney Foundation, seem to be advocating is "regulated 'selling' of kidneys to non-Filipinos" as well as "transplant tourism."

To be fair, in the course of our interviews, Ona and other doctors from the NKTI and even Romero said that they fully back efforts to promote the cadaver donation program, and that donors and from relatives or loved ones, and that in accordance world, the majority of transplanted organs should be sourced from there. But given the present situation, they said, organ donations from "living unrelated" donors could be allowed, but that the giving of some form of financial help to the donors should not be viewed as a form of commerce, but rather as an expression of gratitude from the recipient.

But, says Chua, the "practice of making body parts a commercial commodity, which has been going on in the country since 2002 has been condemned by the World Health Organization, international transplant and nephrology organizations, the United Nations (in its protocol to stop trafficking), APSOT, and WHO's against human trafficking." The practice, he adds, has been banned by RA 9208 or the Anti-Human Trafficking Law since June this year.

Chua says that the Ona's group and Romero had talked to me to interview her of the need for a new law (a bill has already been filed in the House sanctioned by health committee chair Representative Dragon) that would regulate the organ transplant and organ transactions, including the "management" of organ donations from living unrelated donors.

* * *

Chua by the way says current HOR regula-

tions and legislation "allow Filipinos to undergo transplantations from non-related living donors with whom they have mentioned, such as from like distant relatives, spouses, friends, in-laws, church mates, etc. as long as they pass rigorous examination" by the ethics committee of the hospital. An example, I might guess, would be the donation of a kidney to Formal Senator Secretary Raul Gonzalez by his longtime driver.

Chua stresses that position can live a normal, active and healthy life with just one kidney, the prime example being former President Fidel V. Ramos who had a kidney in his youth. He cites a study of kidney donors from impoverished communities in Quezon Province, the Philippine Nephrology Society found that a disproportionate number of them, mostly males under 30 years old, suffered from hypertension and elevated levels of creatinine, and lived easily blame of those interviewed had gone through follow-up treatment at the transplant centers, an indicator of the poor quality of screening that they went to the private clinics. Almost all said they regretted their decision to "sell" a kidney and would not recommend the step to anyone else.

* * *

THE PROBLEM with legalizing or institutionalizing the commercial exchange of kidneys and other organs, says Chua, is that it would in the end discourage the practice of donating organs from "brain dead" donors, or the altruistic practice of donating an organ to a relative or friend.

"Living related kidney donors may feel that they are 'losing out' because they don't receive anything," Chua points out, and instead of choosing to donate to a relative in need may instead choose to become a "living non-related donor" instead.

At the same time, says Chua, "efforts to procure cadaver donors from declared organs will further lag behind as it is easier and more convenient to rely on an LDRD instead."

Chua is also concerned that "a generation of healthcare professionals will undergo and complete their training in the Philippines without proper exposure," adding that the "organ trade" would also result in "more potential opportunities for bribery and corruption of government officials tasked with the supervision of hospitals and practices of kidney transplant doctors."

* * *

IN A RECENT international conference on transplantation held in Istanbul, the participants supported several "principles" that need to be observed in the "trade in human cells, tissues and body parts because and ethical. Among these the act of donation should be regarded as heroic and honored as such by governments and civil organizations, and the cost of organ donation, including the evidence of organs to trafficking, transplant commercialism and tourism, is a critical responsibility of all jurisdictions that sanctioned organ transplants utilizing such practices.

There are also practical measures that governments, health care institutions, medical professionals and NGOs can take to alter the current situation, says Ona. Among these are promoting the donation of organs from the deceased, including the evidence of organs to trafficking, transplant commercialism and tourism, is a critical responsibility of all jurisdictions that sanctioned organ transplants utilizing such practices.

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Sticky notes

ONE NIGHT I FOUND MYSELF POSTING STICKY NOTES on my cabinet doors. I asked myself, "Why am I doing this?" Memories of my childhood flashed through my mind.

As a little girl, I was very sociable and full of energy. On every occasion, I would volunteer to perform on stage, entertain our guests and get to know other people. I loved being the center of attention. My dad often asked me, "What's the greatest?" And I would reply, "Me, Mohammad Ali, Me."

When I entered the age of puberty, my self-confidence went into a tailspin. A sudden attack on my face and body and I began to have self-image issues.

YOUNG BLOOD

Selva Ladroma

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

Friends, relatives and strangers took notice of my blemishes and felt sorry for me. My grandmother could not help but sniff from staring at my huge pimples and blackheads. In the malls, parents girls would offer free solutions to my problem. During family gatherings, I would lock myself inside the bedroom to avoid having conversation with my relatives. I resorted to hiding my face with my hair. I tried everything and anything that could help. From using cucumber and tomato to papaya juice, herbal ointments, aloe vera, honey, etc. I dreaded to look at my face in the mirror and shudder at my photos.

I developed the habit of laughing hard or giggling over almost anything just to distract people from my imperfections. I became a joker to the hope of making people like me. And I was also interested in studies good in my studies in order to gain the respect of others.

My efforts were rewarded. As in elementary school, I graduated high school with flying colors. I graduated cum laude from one of the country's best universities. All those accolades in achievements were meant to make others remember me for something other than my acne condition. It is running from fear of rejection was driving me crazy.

After graduation, my self-confidence took again. I lost my motivation to excel. I was forced to face my fears again, my fear of connecting with people in the workplace and my fear of criticism. I felt discouraged by my lack of accomplishments, and suffered frequent fits of depression and insecurity.

My boyfriend would try to boost my self-confidence by complimenting me for every little thing that I did, but I would snap back at him and tell him to stop telling lies. I found myself confiding in him my anxieties and frustrations over being so complacent and being a mediocre volunteer and found myself not everything I showed to life. I was always in need of his attention.

He sensed that I was suffering from chronic inferiority complex. I denied it of course. So we kept arguing about it.

Then, my journey to self-realization began. I read every article I could find on the Internet about feeling inferior to others and about low self-esteem. I realized to myself, pretending to be my own counselor. At first I rationalized that I was just suffering from hormonal imbalance. But no, I was indulging myself in too much misery. I needed help.

For the first time, I admitted that I had the symptoms of inferiority complex. According to Wikipedia, feeling inferior to others can arise from an imagined or real inferiority to in other circumstances, and is believed to drive affected individuals to overcompensate. This feeling may be manifested in withdrawal from social contacts or excessive seeking of attention, criticism of others, overly doubtful obedience, fear and worry.

I have read that the first step in overcoming fear is to know and understand the enemy. I realized that my adolescent experiences had been truly traumatic and had scarred my self-esteem deeply. My painful self-image affected my relationships with others and my behavior. I taught myself to believe that only external factors could rebuild my self-esteem. Like most people, I was conditioned to feel that money, success and physical appearance and they became my measures of happiness. I failed to bring the core of my belief system to the center of myself. So, when external factors took a detainment, I went on a tomdive.

One time, as if by divine intervention, the opposite side of me said, "I know that I am better and I accept my feeling. If you within!" I heard of this calling, thought I'd a long while and formulated a new belief system: "I am a beautiful creation of God. I am loved. I am blessed. I am grateful." At first, it took me a while to verbalize the statement. I feared the words "beautiful," "loved" and "blessed." I felt that they could not be applied to me and that I was unworthy to even utter them. But I was able to overcome it in order to recite it over and over to myself, with more conviction each time.

That night, I posted lots of paper bearing the statement on my cabinet as a reminder that once I have this belief system, no power, no virtue, no job can make it a reality. Only I can do it.

Selva Ladroma, 20, is an associate software quality assurance engineer in an IT company and a graduate student in energy engineering at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

American soul-searching and Tiger Woods

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

MY WIFE AND I POINT TO NEW YORK CITY AS recently reporting to see some signs, even small ones, of the recent economic collapse. There were hardly any. It's a very sensible city where even severe financial losses have little effect on most people's everyday lives. My wife did notice that fewer families grow flowers in their gardens, and people had a little less food in their shopping carts when they left the supermarkets.

What is evident, though, is that Americans show a remarkable level of flexibility and resilience. Many companies received their secretarial solutions, including the icon of American industry, General Motors. Its managers once said, "What's good for General Motors is good for the country," and many Americans believed them. Now General Motors is bankrupt.

Wall Street is another fallen idol. Americans always keep a sharp eye on Wall Street's doings, but they were still proud to walk along the short street at the foot of Trinity Church and realized it demonstrated the markets of the world. Americans now have their worst fears about Wall Street confirmed.

Another example is American health care. Americans were told they had the "best health system in the world." Now, in the heat of a great debate over President Barack Obama's national health program, people are learning that the health systems in many other countries are more efficient and provide coverage among the common people in developed countries. One commentator called it "islands of excellence [expert treatment, for example] in a sea of mediocrity."

Americans get a sinking feeling in their stomachs when they see their armed forces entering a bloody conflict in Iraq and now in Afghanistan. The signs of a becoming another Vietnam are as prominent as crosses along highways that mark the places where people died. Oil and Sunni troops are supporting a corrupt government of questionable legitimacy. The government forces are unmotivated and reluctant to fight, while the Taliban are fanatical, well-organized, amply armed, and intimidate government officials. Americans hope against hope this war will have a different ending than the one in Vietnam, but they are also aware of the similarities that to expose the same serious and expect different results is a sign of insanity.

Finally, Catholics, or at least some of them, worry about the Church's seeming unequivocal concern for abortion in all the moral issues that arise. They share the concern over abortion, but they miss the Church that was prominently engaged in the struggle for civil rights, against the United States war in Vietnam, and defended the rights of children, immigrants and the poor in general.

The new questioning nature of Americans may be a good thing in the end, even if it leaves them a little more insecure and skeptical of their institutions. Filipinos and people everywhere have experienced no behavior in governments. It is only Americans who have believed they were "special" in any fashion. Skepticism about government is healthy. Why should anyone think a society built by humans should be perfect?

To appreciate America's new loss of faith we should remember that Americans children have been taught that the United States was given to the human race on some sort of revolutionary step forward in creation building.

Now could Americans have failed to take more seriously the messages of the bad things done in their name around the world by their government and multinational companies, and the injustice done to Afro-American people and other minorities at home?

I received what may be an answer to this question quite by accident. Just before the recent PGA golf championship that began on June 11, one TV set in New York went on the blink. The screen moved up about 1 1/2" which gave all the people big tennis and heads and small handy legs. Tee wondered how we could watch Tiger Woods finishing in tongue for four days.

The answer was that we didn't. The first day was painful. Poor Tiger with his small legs and big head! It was unseemly. Then little by little we didn't notice the distortions any longer. We no longer saw them. We unwittingly combined the several same data and our past experience of what should be before us. We "saw" Tiger in normal manner and grew golfing shape, up to the very last hole, chit it.

Americans didn't see the hole. They saw instead what their education had prepared them to see. They saw what they wanted to see.

America has much to learn from the countries, like the Philippines, that have become more expert in criticism of their government over many centuries. The world can benefit from the new American soul-searching if it results in a humbler America, more ready to deal with other people as members and sisters and not as a master or gods.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates. His e-mail address is upa@skyinfo.net

IN THE NEWS

Rep. Juan Miguel "Migy" Arroyo

Shipping lines must put people first

LETTERS

THE BIG NEWS OF ANOTHER passenger ship sinking is drawing, in it's a "culture of carelessness" that allows vessels to sail even when they aren't equipped with enough life jackets and relief. And of course, forms are never "overloaded."

I took a trip from Cagayan de Oro City to Jagna, Bohol a few months back. My two friends and I had a rainy weekend—or so we thought as there was a vacant bed, but nine enough, at the last minute, a man came in to occupy it. But it wasn't just him; he came with his wife, his wife's sister, their children and all their luggage. But nobody complained, because after all, there's "always room for one more."

If passenger airplanes crash as regularly as passenger boats sink or meet accidents, the airline industry would soon grind to a halt, because no one would be in any confidence left to fly all permutations of flying are being "safer" than driving to the convenience.

If the shipping lines put safety and maintenance above profit, people would enjoy traveling by ship, instead of wondering whether they'd be playing Russian roulette—again. Even if the shipping lines insist on putting people first, they'd still make profits—the two are not mutually exclusive.

SUPERFERRY 9 tilts on its side before capsizing in waters off Zamboanga

—SALVADOR ROMANUCO, Block 13 Lot 39, Sriton Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City 9000

'Whistle-blowers' also part of NBN gang

I'VE NOTICED INQUIRER'S EDITORial cartoon (by Gilbert Gaerz) last Sept. 4 was quite misleading. While no image is subject to the interpretation of the person viewing it, one thing is clear in that cartoon: it made a distinction between "whistle-blowers" and "main players." But the fact is, the whistle-blowers and main players in the NBN-ZTE were all part of a syndicate.

As a Political Science student, I get easily interested in such issues as the NBN-ZTE deal. I would even skip classes just to watch a Senate hearing. And I agree with Sen. Richard Gordon that even Joey de Venecia and Jun Lozada must be charged in court for whatever crime they may have committed.

Analyzing the turn of events, people sympathize with Lozada and De Venecia and somehow have forgotten that they played a role in that anomalous project too. I think there was an underlying message in that Senate investigation, but people failed to discern that. Some people failed to discern that Sen. Panfilo Lacson was even deafened by Jr. Senate's notes. While everyone seems to know the mastermind behind the NBN-ZTE rip-off, Gordon did not want to send a message that it's acceptable to participate in the commission of a crime provided you later repent it.

You do not walk away from a crime just because in the end you decided to get out of the syndicate. I agree with the good intention that not a single person involved in the NBN-ZTE deal was a victim in this case, because it was the PHP300 people who were the victims here. Whether or not they revealed anything, the truth remains that they were all part of the crime.

It is unfortunate that there are people who would not seem to keep an open mind, and only know how to criticize even if there's no report yet. From how I understand it, the Senate is doing its job, which is "in aid of legislation," and therefore, the primary role of the Senate is to plug the loopholes in the country's current laws. We should not expect the Senate to control people or become it is not a court of justice.

The current situation may not allow the immediate prosecution of everyone involved in this anomaly but Gordon is right; they will all have their day in court. I think the Senate is doing its part with a committee report that is firm and his active promised. And I also hope that we would all keep an open mind and look at the report in its entirety before making judgments.

—JERICHO ANGELO S. POLICARPIO, 1841 Hibiscus, Nonoguang, Bataan

Foreign groups support demand to stop poison rain

WE, 200 CONCERNED CITIZENS from 44 countries, express our full support for the ongoing effort of rural poor communities in Mindanao to stop the aerial spraying of agrochemicals on banana plantations.

In the spirit of global citizenship, we state our solidarity with the women and men of the Mamamasang Bayan sa Aerial Spraying (Citizens against Aerial Spraying), and many other people's organizations from the various banana growing provinces in southern Philippines, who are asserting their inherent right not to be harmed by aerial pesticide operations. We hold them for courageous gather to halt a clear and present danger to their individual and collective right never to be subjected to chemical exposure. We support them in their just quest to keep harmful chemicals away from their bodies, homes and farms.

We commend Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and the executive committee of the Department of Health for standing by and adopting the key recommendations made in a study conducted for the DOH by the Philippine Society of Clinical and Occupational Toxicology and the University of the Philippines-National Poison Management and Control Center, which are as follows:

1. Establish a health surveillance system to detect effects of chronic pesticide exposures;

2. Perform systematic and periodic monitoring of pesticide residues and metabolites in the environment and undertake remedial measures where necessary;

3. Develop and strengthen guidelines for protecting communities from pesticide contamination from plantations.

4. Stop the aerial spraying of pesticides in light of the precautionary principle espoused by the Rio Declaration of which the Philippines is a signatory.

5. Shift to organic farming techniques to prevent harm to health and the environment that can result from acute and chronic pesticide exposures.

Now that the country's No. 1 public health agency has spoken, we respectfully urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue without delay an executive order banning the agricultural practice of aerial spraying that will reflect and strengthen the position of the DOH executive committee.

Such a policy based on precaution and prevention will surely contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which aims to minimize and eliminate the harm caused by exposures to toxic substances.

We further urge the President to use the power of her office to direct the banana industry to honor its corporate social responsibility and cooperate toward achieving the recommendations set out by the DOH in the greater interest of public health.

—DR. PAUL COMPETE, c/o endpoisonrain@gmail.com

Joey never had dinner with Mike

I WOULD LIKE TO AGAIN TO SHOW the business for publishing my inside story on the NBN-ZTE issue.

At the same time, I would like to correct a slight error which came out in its Sept. 5 issue, specifically the story on Jun Lozada where he said the First Gentleman should be charged.

The reporter was unfortunately stated that I had dinner with Mr. Mike Arroyo on one occasion. This is incorrect. I testified to the May 6th, 2008 committee hearing that I had never had dinner with Mr. Arroyo or a hotel in Makati at the same time that the First Gentleman was there. He never met, we never talked, we never achieved eclipsed such rallies to any way.

The only time I ever met Mr. Arroyo was at the Plaza Black Golf and Country Club. This was when I was a guest while Arroyo told me to "bark off" from the NBN-ZTE deal. I could only interpret his words as a veiled threat.

—JOEY BE VENECIA III, joey2joey@gmail.com

Another human rights prophet killed

THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN People's Response (PCPR) strongly condemns the murder of Father Fr. Cecilio Lucero by cold-blooded assassins in Sorsogon City last Aug. 31 on his way to Casiguran, Northern Samar. the priest was shot down by mercenaries believed to be from the military.

At the time of his death, Father Lucero was a member of PCPR-Northern Samar and the chair of the human rights desk of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Catarman. Under the Arroyo administration, he became the 29th extrajudicial killing victim from the church sector. He is also the second PCPR member to be killed by Inquero Vicente.

As a progressive priest and head of the human rights desk, Fr. Father Lucero was known to be outspoken and unflinchingly against human rights violations, which were rampant in his diocese. He set aside his personal safety to fulfill his calling as a minister and his responsibility as a human rights advocate. Breaking his prophetic and stewardship role as pastor of the people, he proclaimed the Good News to the poor and worked hard to defend the life of the people of God.

The case of Father Lucero is not isolated. Before his murder, there have been numerous extrajudicial killings of church people. Most of those church martyrs, after actively denouncing the abuses of government officials and military troops, received several death threats and were targeted as communists or NPA supporters by the military.

Extrajudicial killings in the region become more frequent during the time of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who was in Bicol. Violations increased apparently due to the implementation of the anti-insurgency operation Plan Bantay Laya 2. The human rights desk of the Catarman diocese says that 10 cases of church workers killed this year remain unresolved.

The killing of Father Lucero is an attack against the Christian faith and humanity which aspires to freedom, genuine peace and justice. We call for the speedy resolution of Father Lucero's case and the prosecution of his killers. Time and again, the religious and faithful have been called to stand firmly in defending human rights and protecting the democratic rights of the people.

Stop the killing of our prophets! Justice for Fr. Cecilio Lucero and all other victims of extrajudicial killings!

—KAREN EBERO, secretary general, Promotion of Church People's Response, pprmail@gmail.com

BCDA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR MULTI-ACCESS AND FIXED-LINE SYSTEMS FOR THE BCDA CORPORATE CENTER, CLARK

1. The BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (the BCDA), through its duly authorized Committee on Tender (the Committee), invites all qualified and interested Filipino and foreign contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for Multi-Access Wireless Systems for the BCDA Corp. Center. (IFB 2009-) with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the amount of

QUANTITY	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET for the CONTRACT (ABC)
1 unit(s)	Multi-Access Wireless Systems	7500,000

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at the bid opening.

3. The description of the eligible bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) of the Bid Documents.

4. Bidders will be evaluated through post-qualification bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidders are required to submit the following documents to establish their eligibility and to demonstrate their capability to perform the contract: (a) Eligibility documents; (b) Technical Component envelope; and (c) Financial Component envelope. Bidders must submit the above documents in accordance with the ITB. Bidders who pass the eligibility check will undergo the detailed evaluation of their technical and financial capabilities, as the case may be, in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. Bidders who pass the technical evaluation will have their financial envelopes opened. The Committee shall then undertake the post-qualification procedures.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and review the Bid Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6. A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address given below from Sept. 15 - 22, 2009 at CASH and Dollars, upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bid Documents of PHP 7500,000.00. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the BCDA Corp. Center's Clerk of Committee. The Bid Documents shall be received only by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

7. It may be purchased by interested bidders on or before 22 September 2009, 5:00 p.m. at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Business Technology Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines.

8. Interested bidders may attend the Pre-Bid Conference on 23 September 2009, 9:00 a.m. at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Business Technology Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines.

9. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 7, 2009, 8:30 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the ABC for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check	One Percent (1%)

10. Bidders shall submit the following documents as part of the bidding envelope: (a) Duly filled-out Bidding and Financial Envelope Identification Form (to be provided by the BCDA Corp. Center's Clerk of Committee); (b) Bid Security; (c) Proof of Eligibility; (d) Technical Component envelope; and (e) Financial Component envelope.

11. Bid opening shall be on October 7, 2009 8:30 a.m. at the address given in the previous IFB 9. Bidder's representatives who are present shall be required to sign the bid opening sheet.

12. Bidders shall submit the following documents as part of the bid: (a) Bid Form; (b) Bid Prices; (c) Bid Security; (d) Contract Agreement; (e) Omnibus Sworn Statement; and (f) Bid Data Sheet.

13. BCDA reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to the contract award in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

14. For further information, please refer to: BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Bid and Awards Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, Telefax No. 575-1700 loc. 1722 or 1723, Direct Line No. 575-1722.

15. You may visit the following address: BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Corporate Center, 2nd Floor Business Technology Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines, Telefax No. 045-599-5232.

16. You may also get more information from the BCDA Corp. Center's Clerk of Committee, Ms. Arlene Bulaong, Telefax No. 045-599-5232.

17. You may also get more information from the BCDA Corp. Center's Clerk of Committee, Ms. Arlene Bulaong, Telefax No. 045-599-5232.

By the BAC Secretariat:

(Sgd.) ARLENE BULAONG
Chairperson

(IFB) Sept. 15, 2009

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of names and persons by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Tigpoo and Mercantile Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The National Food Authority Region V invites all interested grain businessmen duly licensed and accredited by the National Food Authority to participate in the Sale Thru Bidder Determined Pricing Committee (BDPC) of NFA Regional Office No. V, Legazpi City for the sale of the estimated 1,171 MT more or less of NFA palay stocked in the warehouse indicated hereunder on "as-is-where-is" and "no warranties" basis and the following conditions:

Warehouse	Volume to sell		Indicative Price/MT		Location
	VOLUME	LOCATION	VOLUME	LOCATION	
	Dry basis	Wet basis	Dry basis	Wet basis	
Albay	1,171	968	19,000.00	18,000.00	Legazpi City
Cam. Norte	197		19,000.00		Daet, Cam. Norte
Cam. Sur	670	554	19,000.00	18,000.00	Pili, Cam. Sur
Sorsogon	200	165	19,000.00	18,000.00	Sorsogon City
Total	1,237	968			

The above terms, which are of good quality (GMA accepted), may be inspected at the respective warehouses of the concerned Branch Offices during office hours. Offerors shall be required to submit a bid bond equivalent to five (5%) percent of the total price of each location they bid/offer. Failure of offeror(s) to submit the bid bond shall result to disqualification. Winning bidder(s) shall be required to withdraw the bid bond upon payment of the full purchase price after 3 working days from notification. Winning bidder(s) shall be required to pay the corresponding 12% VAT and 1% expanded withholding tax.

The documents such as bidder form, including terms and conditions can be secured at the NFA Regional Office No. V, Rm. 104, Legazpi City and shall be accepted only from interested and qualified bidders upon submission of the same at least one day prior to the bidding. The following post-qualification requirements:

1. Certified photocopy of NFA accreditation;
2. Representative authorization to transact business with NFA for this particular bidding must present Special Power of Attorney (SPA) from the principal/owner if single proprietorship or a notarized authorization from the owner/chairman if representing a corporation/cooperative.

Submission of the post-qualification documents shall be during office hours at NFA Regional Office, Legazpi City, office of the undersigned. Bidding shall be conducted by the Bidder Determined Pricing Committee (BDPC) of NFA Regional Office No. V on the date and time as indicated below:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Pre-bidding conference	Sept. 23, 2009	1:30pm
Submission of Bids/Opening of Bids	Sept. 24, 2009	10:00am

In the event however, that the original date scheduled for the bid opening activity was not totally completed, the bidding process will be conducted every Wednesday thereafter at the same time and venue until the entire lot is fully disposed.

For further requirements you may contact the BDPC Secretariat at Telephone Numbers (052) 480-3080; 480-3081; (052) 742-1021; 820-1671.

ISSUANCE AND RELEASE OF BID DOCUMENTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS. THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS OR TO POSTPONE THE BID OPENING AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL AWARD AND NOT INCUR ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDER(S).

(Sgd.) JOSE B. CLEMENTE
Regional Manager

(NFA) Sept. 15, 2009

Why spend P2 billion for Batazan ecozone?

MAY WE POINT OUT THAT CHEESE PRODUCES a) pimples that opening new freedom in the house of Gonzalez, which is the mother of Mister Rhodes, will not only make Customs administration difficult as the Department of Finance has explained but will also present real dangers of contraband goods (e.g., prohibited drugs) easily entering Caticlan territory, the bill covering the Batazan economic zone a separate Special Economic Zone and Freeport carries with it a P2-billion appropriation.

Some bucks like us who oppose this bill are being ridiculed as against the progress of the province, but do we really have surplus revenues that we can throw away P2 billion on an economic deal already dead on arrival? Nothing, with developed infrastructure, be which, after needing repair, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) has already budgeted P250 million over two years! There are not even any fenced and roofed lot of terms for which the Peza has already built for rent. Do we think that it's judicious use of our very scarce resources. (I heard Sen. Nayong Aquino saying that as an economist, he will be particular with the Judiciary use of our resources.)

We are sure that in the bright follow day, the proponents of the three other operational Peza's subsidiaries in Cavite, Pampanga and Baguio will ask for similar treatment. Do we have money to give them P2 billion each? This is not to mention the harm converting almost the entire country into a Freeport will do to our economy.

We do not think that the Batazan economic, as administered by Peza, needs fixing. If it ain't broke why fix it? It's a really broke, the Chamber of Batazan Zone Manufacturers and Exporters would be the first in demand that they be freed from the professional supervision of Peza, but they are among those who oppose the bill and some threaten to pull out of Batazan if the administration of Peza is changed. Not because they know for sure that it will be the local government unit that will control it.

—FELICITO C. PAPA JR., LEONARDO B. BORDAS, ESTEBAN M. BORDAS, MARIO GONZALES, NICOLAS LEO B. REYES, MAYOR NELSON DAFEO

Across the NATION

Groups formed to secure Noynoy campaign

BAGUIO CITY—A NEW GROUP IS BEING ORGANIzed by non-political supporters of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the Liberal Party standard bearer, to secure his candidacy against power brokers and big business interests offering to fund his campaign.

The group, "Bitay pNOY," was organized by lawyer Jeremias Arcilla, author of the book "12 Little Things You Can Do To Help Our Country."

The group already named a Baguio and Cordillera network, whose chief task is to recruit volunteers.

"[These volunteers] would pay their own way once they campaign for the senator in order to cut the strings that traditionally bind politicians to financial backers and businessmen," said lawyer Alexander Bangoy, the group's local coordinator.

He said his group's campaign to push Aquino's bid had become weary of earning more debt-ridden politicians from businessmen and from interest groups.

"The impetus of "Bitay pNOY" is to go forward beyond Noynoy. Composition of the movement is not the usual troopers. We received feedback about our political fears nowadays as Noynoy supporters because of their connection to [the late former President Corazon Aquino, his mother] and [the] yellow ribbon, financial backers and businessmen," said lawyer Alexander Bangoy, the group's local coordinator.

He said his group's campaign to push Aquino's bid had become weary of earning more debt-ridden politicians from businessmen and from interest groups.

Tales pNOY provides a mechanism for volunteers, who traditionally shy away from political organizations, he said.

Campaign financing and the people who bankroll politicians have already driven the interest of the media.

Last week, participants in the 4th Media Nation summit in Antipolo City vowed to train the resources of major news outlets on individuals or interest groups who will fund the campaigns of candidates for the 2010 elections.

The summit had received information that some funds in previous elections had been sourced from business interests overseas.

In Manila, almost 10,000 volunteers nationwide have signified up and promised to rally behind Aquino III, Roxelle Prieto, one of the convenors of the Noynoy Aquino for President Movement (NAPM) said on Monday.

Right after Aquino declared his candidacy, NAPM, which had gathered signatures of people wanting him to run for president, has shifted to mounting a "people's campaign."

"We were receiving calls and e-mails from those currently abroad, inquiring about Noynoy's campaign," he said.

Prieto said the issues can choose how he seems to help.

The membership has been expanding with promised chapters, she said.

"What is important to remember is that this is a people-led campaign," she said.

Standing with NAPM as umbrella groups are artists and medical professionals.

The Muslim leaders in Mindanao for Noynoy headed by Ismael Abubakar Jr., former speaker of the autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Regional Legislative Assembly has been also formed.

"The only way to define success in politics is morality in governance, which is one of Noynoy's strengths," Abubakar said. Minister Gabriela, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Junior Akbu Lucbertine Gallejo

DOE resets consultations on mining in Catanduanes

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—THE Department of Energy (DOE) has reset public consultations on coal mining projects in three towns in Catanduanes for next month.

Energy Undersecretary Jesus Alan Oca cited some legitimate problems in Bato, Gigmoto and Baras for the postponement of consultations in Catanduanes, San Andres and Bagamanoc towns.

In a phone interview, Oca said the agency had to prepare a budget for the travels and coverage the schedules of personnel who would be assigned to the consultations.

The department, he said, was also preparing for the budget hearings and other activities.

The postponement came as the bank of hayanos reports about plans to allow coal in the Island's power mix by Alsons Consolidated Resources and Energy Inc., which is owned by Francisco Montegrupal Aweyan's business-to-city Regis Business II.

Bagamanoc Mayor Gregorio Angeles confirmed that the public consultations would not be held in his town.

Scrapped

Earlier, Bishop Manolo de los Santos of the Diocese of Virac was informed that the DOE had scrapped the visit of a three-member team tasked with conducting the public consultations on the coal-fired power plant proposal.

The provincial board's secretary, Ursan de Quiroz, however, said the team had been invited to appear before the board to meet with.

The DOE's legal and technical team was to discuss the Philippine Coal Contract and Permitting System, issues and problems related to coal exploration and mining in the province, and DOE rules and regulations related to coal development and production in the country.

No definite date

Dr. Joe Xavier has urged the Catholic faithful to participate in the public hearings and on the environmental impact statement agreements needed be guided accordingly on pending petitions for a coal operating contract on coal blocks 1st and 3 by the DOE in Palo.

"Their decisions shall undoubtedly determine the quality of life of our Green dungeon in the days to come," he said. "The future of our children's children is in our hands."

Patricia Dain, DOE director for public affairs, said there was no definite date yet for next month's hearings. But Oca gave assurance that the local and municipal officials could be consulted before Mount Orchestrones could even launch its operations.

Dominic, he said, the company had yet to secure the necessary permits from the DOE and other government agencies. Before the Department of Energy, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Anny Rome in Manila

WORKERS' FLIGHT Cavite workers hold a rally in front of the Department of Justice office in Manila to denounce the jumping-off a string of sixty-filed against union members and labor leaders at the Cavite Economic Zone. They called on the International Labor Organization (ILO) to help stop the cases, saying these were meant to suppress workers' rights. AFP PHOTO

Cavite workers rally as 'kick-off' to ILO probe

WORKERS FROM CAVITE staged protest rallies outside four government offices in Manila as a "kickoff" activity to an investigative mission of the International Labor Organization (ILO) this month.

"This is to put pressure and call the attention [of the Philippine government] on our labor rights campaign, in view of the high-level investigative mission [to be conducted] by the ILO," said Atty. Soledad, secretary general of the Solidarity of Manila Workers (SOW).

Among the cases in the arrest warrants issued by the Municipal Trial Court in Cavite against 31 members of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Chong Hua (NMCH) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), Department of Justice, Court of Appeals, and Department of Labor and Employment.

Soledad said the ILO would investigate labor conditions in the Philippines on Sept. 21-25.

The workers are demanding an "imperial" probe of the charges which have been filed against them since 2006, he said.

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The workers are demanding an "imperial" probe of the charges which have been filed against them since 2006, he said.

"Until now, there has been no impartial investigation and justice for these workers," Soledad said.

The workers also requested to seek ILO investigations into the implementation of the "no union, no strike policy" in export processing zones.

They cited as "urgent" issues the abduction of union leaders Aurora Alalde and Romeville Cubio from Philippines Asset in August 2007, and the "illegal transfer" of equipment and operations of the Golden Well Footwear Philippines Corp. from Marikina to Novaliches, which resulted in the retrenchment of 300 workers in June.

The labor group Pagkakaisang mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan will host a forum with Alyansang Manggagawa sa Trade Unions in the Philippines" in Cabuyao, Laguna, to-morrow. Marlene Cura, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Hundreds march vs coal-fired power plant

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Hundreds of people, forgoing their lunch meal for a while, marched on the streets of Manila, a coastal town in Sarangani, to show their opposition to the 200-megawatt coal-fired power plant recently cited.

"We will not allow any destruction of our environment and our people," said Windfredo Oliva, head of the Manilat People's Coalition on Climate Change (MPCC) which spearheaded the rally. Construction of the power facility by Mitsi Farmpower Synergy Kawagas, was scheduled to start in the third quarter, but its proponent, Coastal Holdings Corp. (CHC), recently announced that it would be early next year. The company is owned by the family of Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez.

Environmentalists fear that the project will displace thousands of residents and destroy the Tuno-Tampisan Reef, within the Kawango Marine Protected Area.

CHC officials have given assurance that they would strictly comply with environmental laws and employ the latest technology to prevent pollution or harm to public health.

Reforestation

They have even vowed to reforest around 1,000 hectares of land near the project to serve as carbon sink.

One of the protest leaders, Fr. Bienvenido Mantaño, said the majority of the residents were against the proposed facility. "They expressed their active support to many dissent and effective ways," he said.

The placard-bearing marchers converged at the Santa Cruz Parish for an interchurch, interreligious prayer service led by Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez. Oliva said the prayer-rally showed their commitment to preserve God's creation and their opposition to the coal-fired plant.

Among those who joined were the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Rhere for Environment and several Catholic lay leaders.

Mantaño vowed to the plans where the rally was held.

Fr. Romeo Tarrobal, head of the social action center of the Diocese of Marbel, placed the number of marchers at 5,000, but Mayor Rosella Lopez Jr., a known supporter of the project, put it at 1,500.

MPPC released the signing of a document titled "Katubusan tali sa Ginoo ng za Karuwhan sa Mundo: [Covenant between God and the People of Manila].

Support for the covenant was "overwhelming," Mantaño said. "Even our Muslim brothers and sisters in the indigenous communities joined us."

On Sunday, environmentalists and human rights advocate priest Amado "Fr." Picardal and five other hikers travelled 117 kilometers from Davao City to Kidapawan City to protest the Kamanga project. Agudilla Jarvis, Inquirer Mindanao

World War II hero, former Baguio mayor dies at 92

BAGUIO CITY—FORMER MAYor Feniciano Palmes, one of the World War II warriors who helped liberate the city from the Japanese, died in Ilocos on Monday. He was 92.

Palmes, a highly decorated wartime army colonel, was the last former President Corazon Aquino's choice for acting Baguio mayor after the 1986 People Power revolt. He served from March 17, 1986, to Jan. 31, 1988.

The Palmes family confirmed that he died on his way to a Bataan hospital but has yet to issue details of his death.

Maria Rosario Lopez, executive director of the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. (JVOFI), which Roman coordinated, said the man knew was in Bataan to visit a daughter.

Mayor Reynaldo Bautista Jr. said the city government was preparing for a wake at City Hall this week.

Palmes is honored foreman as an officer of the 66th Infantry Regiment, which is composed of the first Filipino soldiers to enter Baguio on April 27, 1945, shortly after it was bombed by American troops.

In one of his last interviews, Palmes said soldiers like him were about on their knees to invade Japanese-occupied Baguio as they broke through the city.

The Japanese Imperial Army had set up its headquarters at Camp John Hay for the duration of its Philippine occupation.

Roland's final public appearance was on Aug. 20 when he received some of the first from Builders of Baguio Centennial Awards from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a press conference, Palmes said: "There are things to be done in the city [for which] we are celebrating 100 years of existence. The leaders in the people should go along with the progress [benefiting Baguio]."

"But the outlook looks good [because] Baguio will always be the center of progress, culture, education and business. There is no city in this country like Baguio," he said. Florante Gabrasa and Desiree Cabuay, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Engine trouble stalls interisland ship off Leyte

CEBU CITY—ANOTHER INterisland ship stalled for a few hours off Leyte early Monday due to engine trouble.

The MV Filipinas Iloilo reversed here at 12:30 p.m. on Monday instead of 6 a.m. as scheduled, after its defective lube oil pump was repaired, said Lt. Michel Ocubillo, information officer of the Coast Guard District in Central Visayas (Pescav).

It was carrying 286 passengers and 61 crewmembers when it left Masaba City in Southern Leyte at 10 p.m. on Sunday, Ocubillo said.

The main engine of the ship, owned by Cokaliong Shipping Lines Inc., conked out at about midnight on Sunday at Tagas Point in Matalom town in Leyte, he said.

Ocubillo said the passengers were informed of the situation to avoid panic while crew members headed for the Port Pablo Matin were fixing the pump. Repair was completed at 5:30 a.m.

A routine protest was expected to be filed by Alcala as the Coast Guard would know what caused the problem.

Marinel Leviste, officer-in-charge of Maritime Industry Authority in the region, suspended the ship's safety certificate as part of standard operating procedures so that it could not sail without passing the safety inspection by Marina.

Marina safety engineer Marlon Martin said the lifting of the suspension order would depend on how the Cokaliong management would act on the problem of the vessel.

Those days ago, the MV Romeo Bay I of the Carlos A. Gothong Shipping stalled off Plaridel town in Misamis Occidental after its engine died from a leaking O-ring while sailing from Mandaue City to Ilipan City via Ozamiz City.

The vessel proceeded to Ozamiz after repair. Maureen Vicente Pallocan, Inquirer Visayas

Moro clan war forces 400 families to flee

COTABATO CITY—A MORO CLAN WAR erupted anew on Saturday, forcing some 400 families to leave their homes in the border villages of South Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces, officials said.

Three people were killed and another was wounded when armed followers of Vice Mayor Salik Mamanalondo of Pagalungan town in Maguindanao clashed with those of Ibrahim Samad, alias "Commander Ibrahim," Samad's men had earlier killed a relative of the city mayor.

Samad is allied with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while Mamanalondo was identified with the Moro National Liberation Front, police said. But the two rebel groups are not involved in the feud, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Peter, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

A "truce" (clan war) ensued after an attempt to settle the conflict between the two families failed.

Army soldiers and policemen were deployed to the area to prevent more clashes, Peter said.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said the families fled to the Pagalungan town center after Samad and some 30 followers attacked the nearby Barangay Batiganding in Okir town in North Cotabato, burned houses and torched 22 houses.

"We are sad with what Commander Ibrahim has done because our brother and other Muslims are observing fasting right now, and because of the family feud the civilians were affected," Peter said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development office in Maguindanao and North Cotabato are now assisting the displaced families, Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

BANGUS HARVEST
Members of Magpong Fisherfolk Association of Barangay Magpong, Libungan town in Lanao del Norte prove their capability to earn income from milkfish culture. The livelihood project is funded by the World Bank through the Mindanao Regional Development Project/Community Fund for Agriculture Development of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit-10.
RICHEL V. CAMELOTAN/PHOTOGRAPHER

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Bicol posts swine surplus, but pork prices still high

By Joel Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—SWINE PRODUCtion jumped in Bicol during the first quarter compared to the same period last year, but pork consumers in the region are paying the same steep prices like those in Metro Manila.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) reported that two years after supertyphoons brought losses to Bicol's swine industry, production rose by 16 percent to 264,307 heads from January to March from 318,590 heads during the same period in 2008.

It was the highest production growth in two years despite a five-percent drop in the second quarter compared to last year's record for the same period, according to Catherine Salido, BAS regional statistician.

Salido said the sufficiency level was expected to be sustained until the end of the year.

Prices of pork in the local markets, however, remained an expensive ₱160 per kilo—higher by some ₱20 than those in Metro Manila.

The Department of Agriculture's price monitoring updates showed that as of Sept. 8, pork cuts, such as lean meat with bones, were priced in Naga City's wet market at ₱140-₱150 per kilo. In Metro Manila, these cuts (kasim) at ₱120-₱130.

Lean pork in Naga was sold at ₱180-₱190 per kilo, but consumers in Metro Manila bought the same at ₱150-₱160.

Jose Dayao, BAS regional executive director, said the challenge of consistent market supply had remained. One of the department's move to stabilize pork supply to Naga is to source it from big swine producers in Manabo, he said.

Sacrifice to mounting backyard raisers to get better pricing from the local market, he said.

Bacolod in state of calamity due to dengue deaths

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—DENGUE DEATHS IN Bacolod City have risen to eight this year, prompting the city council to pass a resolution Wednesday night declaring imminent danger of calamity in the city.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia has requested the declaration after the City Health Office reported that there were 574 dengue cases and six confirmed deaths in Bacolod City as of Aug. 3.

Since the report made the request last week, the same persons died due to dengue, bringing to eight the total number of dengue-related deaths in Bacolod from January to September this year.

Bacolod City Health Office (CHO) statistician Marlon Salinero on Thursday said the most recent victims were an 11-year-old male from Purok Mahawahaon, Barangay Sum, and a 10-year-old girl from Purok 7, Barangay Brusas Airport.

The council declaration was necessary to allow the city government to use its calamity funds to prevent dengue, Leonardia explained.

In his letter to the council dated Aug. 7, Leonardia said if not extended to the number of fatalities will rise, as it has in the whole Negros Visayas.

The Bacolod CHO records showed that confirmed cases of dengue from Jan. 1 to July 18 reached 489, up from 237 cases registered in the same period in 2008.

There were only two deaths in 2008, also in the same period.

In her report, Bacolod City Health Officer Dr. Adoracion Bilbao noted that the high incidence of dengue cases occurred in the densely populated barangays of Tangkalan, Villamonte, Mandalagan, Taculing, Mandalagan, Banago, Tangub, Alijis and Sum.

Bilbao said that despite their intensified education campaign, application of chemicals to exterminate some in all the barangays and other anti-dengue activity the number of cases continued to rise.

SPORTS
Editor Tonichi G. Sinsuat • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
E-mail: sc_mail@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Mobile short: Sun/Bel: 2158 (SPORTS); Globe: 4455

Stags match 14-game NC win streak

By Cedelf P. Tupaz

SAN SEBASTIAN HUNDRED ITS MEMorial hoops with a 99-61 rout of St. Benilde, allowing the Stags to match the league's longest winning streak of 14 in the 85th NCAA basketball tournament at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Helping an early ninth win-and-gone game, the Stags pulled away early and led by as many as 41 points against the short-handed Blazers to tie the second run of consecutive victories set by San Beda in 2000.

While the Stags achieved the feat in the elimination round, the Lions set the record in Game 1 of the Finals against Letran where seven ago at a time when there were only eight teams in the league, two less than this year.

"We came out more motivated than ever, that's why we grabbed the opportunity to do the second," San Sebastian coach Jim Agustin said, attributing the Stags' renewed vigor to a two-week breathing session over the weekend.

Making a strong case for MVP award, Jimbo Aguilar posted 23 points and nine rebounds to help the Stags overcome the absence of power forward Gilbert Bulawan, who is still recovering from a knee injury.

The Stags moved within two wins of clinching the twice-to-beat bonus in the Final Four and three wins of a historic elimination sweep.

But Agustin said pulling off the sweep will be a tall order for the Stags, who face defiance 9 on Sept. 22, Letran on Sept. 25, Jose Rizal on Sept. 28 and San Beda on Oct. 7.

"These are big games," said Agustin. "We'll have to make more adjustments and hopefully they'll click."

Absent the entire season's start for Bulawan missed the game because of various injuries.

In the second game, Emilio Aguinaldo Col. kept vanished to sixth-place with an 87-73 triumph over Angeles University Foundation.

The Generals improved to 5-10, staying one win ahead of Benilde at 4-11.

In the juniors' division, Jose Antonio pumped in 28 points and pitched 10 rebounds to power defending champion San Sebastian past La Salle Green Hills-St. Bernlde, 71-60.

ARELLANO'S Chuck Cuenco shoots a drive under pressure from DAC's Orlan Dolores in yesterday's game. rudolf f. cabuk (3/4)

Final Four: Blue Eagles huge favorite over Tigers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE'S NO NEED to fire up defending champion Ateneo and it's not because the Blue Eagles are up against the slumping University of Santo Tomas Tigers.

"When we got to the UST game, it will be very easy for me to get the players fixated because they know the next step is already the Finals," said Ateneo coach Norman Black ahead of Sunday's UAAP Final Four at the Araneta Coliseum.

Exploiting the second appeal of the Final Four, the league decided to hold the semifinal clash separately.

But Ateneo University and University of the East collide in the first semifinal encounter on Wednesday followed by the Ateneo-UST showdown the next day.

The Blue Eagles won all but one of their 14 games in the elimination to finish No. 1 and claim the twice-to-beat advantage against the Tigers, who barely made it to the semifinals.

UST closed out its eliminations tie with three straight losses and banked on an upset win by National U against Ateneo in the last outing to make to enter the last semifinal berth.

"We're entering the semifinals with the idea that we have to win one game to make it to the Finals," said Black.

The Tams also clinched the semifinal berth after finishing second with an 11-3 slate.

League commissioner Joe Lipa, meanwhile, is set to review the suspension slapped on Ateneo backup Nico Salva following the Blue Eagles' twice game against the Tamaraws.

"It's probably going to hurt us (if Salva is suspended)," said Black. "Hopefully the penalty can be appealed."

Salva, who averages 6.1 points and 3.9 rebounds, was thrown out late in the third quarter for punching PSG guard Jervy Cruz in the game won by Ateneo, 74-73, via the final day of elimination last Saturday.

In ejection merits an automatic suspension.

SBC spikers back on top; Lady Blazers score

By Cedelf P. Tupaz

SAN BEDA RECAPTURED THE TOP SPOT IN THE men's division while St. Benilde overpowered Angeles University Foundation, 25-13, 25-14, 25-14, yesterday to grab second spot in the women's tournament of the 65th NCAA volleyball competition at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

The Lions smashed the EAC Generals, 25-19, 25-13, 25-23, 25-17, for their 10th victory in six outings.

The Lady Blazers, meanwhile, leaned on the power hitting trio of Kiesy Evasco, Jhoanne Wiss and Gina Mariano to smash to their fifth straight win in six starts.

The Perpetual Help Lady Altas rode a leading 6-4 draw, their lone dash last week by the Lady Knights, who also snapped the 19-game run of defending champion San Sebastian, 12-25, 25-22, 27-25, 9-25, 21-19, yesterday.

The Lady Stags swooped their earlier 3-0.

In the other women's game, San Beda rallied past EAC, 25-18, 21-25, 25-12, 25-20, to raise its record to 3-4.

EAC entered a San Beda victory after its 25-man team posted a 25-22, 25-20, 25-20 win.

SPORTSWATCH

Manila, Davis Cup squad PSA Forum guests

THE NATIONAL DAVIS CUP TEAM MEMBERS OF FILIPINO-AMERIcans Gerl Mendoza and Treat Huey made this week's guests in the PSA forum at Shakey's Malate.

Mendoza-Huey tandem Jayhan Chris Cuarto, Ethel Aranda and team coordinator Randy Villanueva will accompany the players in the television interview over dzSR Sports Radio 918 and supported by Shakey's, Cignal Sakers, Pagcor and Accel as they talk about their duos Davis Cup tennis tie against New Zealand on Sept. 18 to 20 at the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) at Bel-Air courts.

Also appearing in the PSA forum is Rafi Zamora, president of the Philippine Kayaking Association, who will discuss the second leg of the SEA Kayaking Series from Tamaki, Cavite, to Corregidor Island on Sept. 19 and 20.

Patriots pull off Ucaa volley finals sweep

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-LAGUNA TECHNOPARK PATRIOTS swept Big Jolly's Ham Chile defenders in the fourth set as they repulsed the Olivarez College San Lorenzo, 28-24, 24-26, 25-17, 25-23, and grabbed the men's crown of the eighth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association volleyball tournament on a cross-game sweep at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Complex.

Most Valuable Player awardee Paul Sitt combined with Nationals Herod and Emmanuel Bandoles in the Patriots' blocking front line and powered the Patriots to their seventh title.

The Cavite-based spikers took Game 1 last Sept. 5 after they walked off, 25-23, 25-20, 25-20 triumph over the San Lorenzo.

Earlier, the DLSU-LZ Lady Patriots retired closer to the women's plate when they outplayed the Technological Institute of the Philippines Lady Engineers, 25-18, 25-17, 25-20, in Game 1.

Que slips a rung in Tour Order of Merit

FILIPINO ACE ANGELO QUE DROPPED A RUNG LOWER ON 9-6 divisions Order of Merit after joint seed's Macau Open where he placed joint 25th.

Que, who picked up $83,020 for placing seventh at the recent European Masters, a tournament co-sanctioned by the Asian and European tours, now ranks 115th with total earnings of $138,398.

He pocketed $6,500 at Macau Open.

Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand shook up the OOM, zooming to 8th place from 62nd three weeks ago with respectable earnings of $136,000. He won $19,250 in Macau.

Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand continues to lead the race with 387,912.67, followed by American Anthony Kang (338,941.783) and India's Jyoti Randhawa ($288,031.6) Asian Tour News.

PHILIPPINE RACING TIMES
By Tip Choice
By Santos Ana Park

MANNY Pacquiao signs autographs during a print conference at the AT&T Park in San Francisco in preparation his fight against Miguel Cotto.

Baguio folks asked to stay away from Pacquiao's camp

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—CELEBRITIES and Baguio fans have been told to stay away from training camp of boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao as he prepares for his fight against Miguel Cotto.

This reminder, according to Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., is in the interest of Pacquiao, who is the country's only World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight champion.

But because the city folks' suggestion of ignoring celebrities could even be considered a "myth," Bautista on Monday asked people to stay away from Pacquiao's training camp.

Bautista made the appeal so that Pacquiao's training would not be disrupted by fans.

Pacquiao, who will stay in Baguio City's Wright Park, a couple of days after his arrival from a press tour in the United States and Puerto Rico, is still be provided round-the-clock security.

Part of his training will be held at Camp John Hay where Pacquiao can run his daily workout facing backward.

The rest of his training will be held at the Philippine Sports Commission facility in Teachers' Camp.

Bautista said Pacquiao would be guarded by a private security firm.

Tolentino tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, a patron of Philippine sports, has been near Pacquiao with the city about the details of the pugilist's training.

"Every national athlete has trained On Baguio because the thin air in Baguio's was conducive to athletics," Bautista said. Pangilinan also brought in Brother Eliseo Dionisio to train him."

Pangilinan chose Baguio over Manila's "tremendous heat, humidity, traffic, bus, hotel air, and bus air issues," said the mayor.

Meanwhile, Freddie Roach said ESPN.com that four speed, not hand speed, will be the key to Pacquiao's victory in the 12-round rematch bout.

Pacquiao and Cotto were in the AT&T Park in San Francisco on Monday (Monday in Manila) to the third stop of their press tour, which earlier took them to New York and Puerto Rico.

Roach, still also be arriving in the country to supervise Pacquiao's training.

GOLDEN HARVEST Arellano University's Ateneo men's doubles champions Ralph Ian Morales (left), also a silver medalist in men's singles, and Rovilla Gonzales (right) join Philippine Badminton Association president and former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos (center), EVP Gov. Jhu Ejercito and secretary general George Piano during a recent luncheon meeting following the NP team's impressive return in four international meets.

Antonio eyes NCA repeat in Stag Big Event derby

LOCKHART BOX PATRICK ANTONIO seeks another victory today when he defends his National Chukkers Alliance (NCA) title in another Stag Big Event at the Pinares Sports Arena in Baguio.

Antonio's entry Sagupaan Compliance 3000 shared the title with the "K-20 Jr" entry of Glyn Aguilar and T Revilla in last week's derby. Gerry Ho's poor Against All Odds placed second.

Among the favorites in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Compliance is hosting hero Manny Dacquisto's entry.

The next NCA derby is on Sept. 20.

The other entries. Cobra and Edangan Sports, Pete Nuno and Mike Bagaging, Jr. Magsaysay, Tony Rubina and Jerry Dacanay, Ni Ledda, Boy de Roza, Butch Uy, Raul Bautista, E. Santos, Rene Magsaysay, Jun dela Rosa, Pedie Sumsuddin, Jr. Ramos, Johnny Arog, Manuel Vito Mabit Nuevo Mercado and Lito Chikiam, Tommy Chua and Duang dela Cruz, former Pinar Cruz, Boy Tenorio, Bimpy and Ayman Santos, Danny Yanes, Gladney Ogilvie, Brandy Tolentino, Pedie Vito Rio Jose Nuevo Mercado, Ricky Reyes, Boy Bate, Tony Martinez, James Uy and Allan Sison.

Monico confident he'll get cleared

By Cedelf F Tupas

BACOLOD REP MONICO PUENTEVELLA yesterday expressed confidence that he will be exonerated in the P63.3-million plunder case filed against him by the PSC (See main story).

In a statement sent to media outlets in this city, Puentevella insisted that his office had submitted its liquidation report to the PSC and belied reports that it took him years to submit his report on the SEA Games expenses.

Puentevella later announced he was given by the Commission of Audit 45 more days to submit his liquidation report.

"I welcome the filing of the information before the Department of Justice," he said.

"I am certain that the DOJ will find merit in my counter-arguments, taking into consideration the prevailing circumstances of 2005.

"With the filing of the information, preponderance of evidence will be main object of deliberations unlike that public discourse that only muddles the issue further.

"I am confident that I will be exonerated in the bar of justice and in the eyes of my people."

PSC files plunder charges vs POC chair Puentevella

By Cedelf F Tupas

TRUE TO ITS WORD, THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION YESTERDAY filed plunder charges against Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella for rendering Republic Act 7656 in connection with Bacolod's hosting of certain events of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

PUENTEVELLA watches a football match during the 2005 Games in Bacolod. –

Puentevella, the Philippine Olympic Committee chair who served as head of the Bacolod-Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Basaci) in 2005, is accused of failing to liquidate the P63.3 million it spent to aid the PSC government for the renovation of facilities and conduct of five sports during the SEA Games.

Puentevella, in his capacity as congressman and chair of the Basaci, willfully and criminally assisted PSC's million through a series of over or criminal acts, particularly by misappropriating, converting, misusing or consenting acts of malversation by himself or in connivance with others, public funds to the damage and prejudice of the government," the 14-page complaint signed by PSC chair Harry Angping read.

Puentevella, the complaint said, took advantage of his position when he requested the amount to his personal bank account.

The PSC had demanded, in a letter dated Sept. 18, that Puentevella refund the amount.

Instead, the congressman asked PSC audit team leader Bhabo Lipana for additional time to refine his liquidation reports.

But the PSC rejected the request while noting the impropriety of Puentevella's actions of "contracting" with the Commission on audit only now it said Puentevella had more than three years to do it after the conclusion of the SEA Games, the complaint read.

Puentevella's earlier liquidation report was branded by the PSC as "entirely irregular and unacceptable under government rules and regulations."

"The absence of minimum mandatory supporting documents for government disbursement, expense liquidation, accepted accounting and auditing rules and regulations cast doubts on the regularity of the liquidation submitted," the complaint said.

The complaint noted that, despite repeated demands from both the PSC and the COA, it was only on Jan. 30, 2009 that the liquidation documents relating to the final releases were submitted to Lipana.

THAILAND'S Pongsaj Pechkoom (left) is declared winner over Filipino jeepney Ledon during the featherweight finals in boxing, one of several Bacolod-Asian Games events held in Bacolod City in 2005. –

The case did not include former PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez and other members of the PSC board who approved the release of funds.

PSC legal counsel Mario Bellosillo said he is still trying to establish if there was a "conspiracy" between the former PSC administration and Puentevella, a former commissioner of the PSC himself.

The bayonne tried calling Puentevella and even sent him text messages to request for an interview, but did not get any response.

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URCC duel: La Salle bests Ateneo fighters

LA SALLE'S MIKHAIL AL-Rhazem used his height advantage and quickness to dispatch Ateneo's Ralph Sibuklin even as his three other schoolmates also scored victories in the UAE 45 Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) University Challenge held over the weekend at the A. Soriano Center Hall in Makati.

The 5-foot-10 Al-Rhazem, three inches taller than Sibuklin, won their welterweight bout in 2:43 of the first round after applying a rear naked choke. The La Salle ace got rear arm around his foe's neck and sprained it up with the other.

Three other La Salle fighters—pinweights Jojo Tabang, lightweight Andrew Lanz and flyweight Mark Limbaga—likewise prevailed.

Limbaga and Tabang also nailed their matches right in the opening rounds of the scheduled three-round, five-minute bouts.

Limbaga downed Reyen Lacas by armbar submission in 1:43 of the first round. Lanz also scored a rear naked choke decision over Angelo Cruz of St. Paul and Tabang disposed of Albert de Guzman, also by armbar submission, in 2:43 of the first round.

Laverne's Warren Hyanes, meanwhile, registered the fastest victory in the 13-bout event, needing only 60 seconds to stop La Salle's Jil Bullecer by armbar submission in the other pinweight showdown.

Salvador Abarca, a 5-7 soldier from Tuba, Salvador, also overpowered a solid effort when he beat 6-foot Chuck Chang of La Salle by rear naked choke in the welterweight division.

Milo 42K nat'l finals to use electronic chip

THE NATIONAL MILO MARAthon finals on Oct. 11 will debut electronic timing chips to runners in the 42K, 21K and 10K race categories for a more accurate and faster release of results.

World MVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Gee on announced this recently during the signing of a memorandum of agreement between race director Rudy Biscocho and officials of Nivelation, exclusive distributor of ChampionChip timing system in the country.

ChampionChip is a mini transmitter-responder housed in plastic. The chip inside is encased in a waterproof glass capsule, making it suitable in all weather conditions.

ChampionChip technology was officially introduced at the Berlin Marathon in 1996 and is now used in major international marathons and triathlons.

MILO

MISTER RESULTS As the MOA signing draws to a close, Milo PR and sports executive Andrew Hart, Nivelation MVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Gee ong, national race director Rudy Biscocho with PedalGear president Ric dela Cruz and sales and marketing manager Vincent Mendoza.

BFF Clijsters carries daughter Jada as she holds the trophy after beating Caroline Wozniacki in the women's singles final. AP/PA

Clijsters caps return with US Open title

Federer, Del Potro gain final

NEW YORK—WITH THE SILVER TROPHY tucked under one arm and cradling her daughter Jada in the other, Kim Clijsters provided a huge lift for working mothers around the world as she was crowned US Open champion Saturday.

Victory before a rowdy, boisterous, friendly, 10 seconds old toddler stolen the show on Arthur Ashe Stadium but this was no ordinary day at Flushing Meadows.

It was a day when Belgian wildcard Clijsters beat Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki, 7-5, 6-3, to become the first mother to win a grand slam title since Evonne Goolagong achieved the feat almost three decades ago—at Wimbledon in 1980.

"We tried to plan for surprise a little bit later so she could be here today. It's the greatest feeling in the world, being a mother," a glassy-eyed Clijsters told the crowd after her heart-tugging comeback win at the hardcourt majors.

A year ago, Jada began with the Belgian taking baby steps back into top-flight tennis early last month—following a two-year sabbatical—came full circle in just 25 days as she claimed her second US Open prize.

"Amazing. For her to have this incredible run is fantastic. This is a great story for women's tennis, that's for sure," said Roger Federer, who as the lone father of twins will try to prove that clubbing can rule the world when he takes on Juan Martin del Potro in the men's final Monday.

World No. 1 Federer rolled on a mash of magic to make sure he was still on target to set a modern era record of winning six successive Open titles.

The Swiss top seed, who although injured in the net, conjured an eye-catching encounter winner from between his legs to bring up match point as he beat Novak Djokovic, 7-6, 7-5, 7-5.

"That's unbelievable. It was the greatest shot I ever hit in my life," Federer said in a courtside interview as he watched a replay of the point on the giant screens on Ashe Stadium.

FEDERER: turns on his crowd-pleasing crosscourt skills. REUTERS

Del Potro pulled off the greatest win of his life when he outmanoeuvred Rafael Nadal, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, to reach his first major final.

His one and-a-half-hour Clijsters of Sunday an early ride at the Open as her road to the final included victories over both Venus and Serena Williams. Reuters

Outburst costs Serena $10,000 fine

NEW YORK—SERENA WILLIAMS' INFAMOUSLY LACED, finger-pointing tirade at a US Open line judge is a $10,000 fine. Sunday, and more punishment could follow from a broader investigation into what the head of the tournament called her "threatening presence."

"The average tantrum we would look at that and say, 'A $10,000 fine for what she did? What are you guys, crazy?' The answer is: The precaution's over," tournament director Jim Curley said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Bill Babcock, the top administrator for Grand Slam tournaments, will review what happened Saturday night, when Williams yelled at videoperson who called a foot fault with the defending champion two points away from losing to Kim Clijsters in the semifinals.

If Babcock determines Williams committed a "major offense," she could be fined all of her paltry winnings from the tournament. Williams also was docked $500 for insulting line umpire after the first set of the match. AP

Woods romps to 8-shot win for sixth crown of season

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—TIGER WOODS CRUISED to an eight shot victory on the PGA Championship in Sunday, to capture his sixth title of the season.

Woods, who began the day with a seven shot cushion over runner-ups Ronnie Sheehan and Australian Aaron Baddeley, closed with a three under 67 to win for a fifth time at Cog Hill.

It was Woods' 21st PGA Tour title, leaving him just two short of tying Jack Nicklaus for second on the all time list.

"If you would have asked me at the beginning of the year, you guys probably wouldn't have predicted I would have had the year like I have," Woods told reporters.

"To have the opportunity to win just about every tournament I have been in ... to come off here tonight and have this type of year and be this consistent is something I'm very proud of.

"Absolutely. This is one of my best years, no doubt about that." There was no hint of drama during the second half round, as Woods' challengers were unable to mount a charge against a workmanlike performance by the world No. 1.

American Jim Furyk, who held off Woods to win at Cog Hill in 2003, returned a bogey free five-under 66 to finish second alongside PGA Tour rookie Jonathan Byrd at 11-under 273.

Furyk O'Hair told was close to Woods, one shot further back at 10-under 274 followed by fellow American Zach Johnson (68) at eight-under. Ireland's Padraig Harrington (72) and Spain's Sergio Garcia (71) finished in a tie for sixth at five-under 278.

Woods, who shot a course record 62 on Saturday, added a bogey at the fifth with a birdie at the seventh and ninth to reach the turn, seven under and his seven shot lead intact.

The victory moved Woods into top spot in the Ryder Cup standings going into the season-ending Tour Championship in Atlanta in two weeks. Reuters

PRESSURE: Jose Woods celebrates after holing out. AFP

Suzuki rips 98-year-old ML baseball hit record

DALLAS—JAPANESE OUTFIELDER ICHIRO Suzuki broke one of the oldest batting records in Major League Baseball on Sunday when he ended up his 2004 hit for the 1994 season in a row.

Ichiro reached the milestone with an infield single for the fourth May time in the second inning of a 5-4 victory over the Texas Rangers in the second game of a doubleheader.

The 31-year-old eclipsed the previous record of eight consecutive 200-hit seasons, set by Hall of Famer Willie Keeler way back in 1901.

"When I break a record, I never feel satisfaction," Ichiro told reporters. "I strongly feel experiences from Japan and my records are things that I feel Japan believed they sustained."

Ichiro, one of the dominant hitters of baseball, left Japan in 2001 to play in the US and has topped the 200-hit mark in every season he has played.

He currently became the second-fastest player in Major League baseball to reach 2,000 hits, doing it in 1,492 games. Ichiro broke another ML record in 2004, getting 262 hits, the most than Hall of Famer George Sisler had in 1920.

"I was a witness to both October records," Mariners manager Bob Wickman said. "I was watching with the Dodgers when he broke the single-season (262) hit record. That was something. But to break a record that was set in 1901 is even bigger in my book." Reuters

Barrichello leads 1-2 Brawn GP finish in Italy

MONZA, ITALY—RUBENS BARRICHELLO PICKED up his second win in three races to lead Brawn GP to a 1-2 finish at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday that put the British team in the driver's seat for the Formula One title.

Barrichello and teammate Jenson Button both passed the top three finishes to one-stop strategies to lead a runway as the Monza circuit that severely hampered Red Bull's dominating organization.

Barrichello, scoring off his first victory in five years at Monza last month, chased two points off of Button's overall Formula One championship lead by getting within 14 points with four GPs to race.

Barrichello was relishing the prospect of an open battle against his teammate after playing second fiddle to Michael Schumacher for so many years at Ferrari.

"I can show my true ass behind the wheel," Barrichello said after yanking up his 11th career win.

Lewis Hamilton of McLaren crashed on his final lap while running third, allowing Kimi Raikkonen to finish on the podium for the fourth straight race at Ferrari's home GP.

Hamilton's crash also allowed Sebastian Vettel to pick up one point by finishing eighth, but Red Bull's fi- hopes were hanging on a thread after Mark Webber crashed on the opening lap.

Pebble error off at the Dolfo Ruggia turn after tangling with Fisher Sahara of BMW Sauber to see his difficult to Button moved to 120 points, while Vettel is now 20 points behind the British driver. AP

Sta. Elena, Eastridge bets enter FedLeague semis

Standings after elimination round (Win-Loss-Down-Points): Group 1 (Dasmariñas 9-3-2-14, Mark Hills 9-3-2-14, Rockets 6-3-3-12), Valley 5-4-1-11, Motherwoods 2-5-2-8, Orchard 2-7-1-5); Group 2 (Sta. Elena 9-3-2-18, Highlands 7-3-4-14, Cumbungan 5-4-1-11, Forest Hills 3-6-2-7, Southwoods 1-7-2-4, Sherwood Hills 1-8-1-3)

STA. ELENA ENDED YEARS OF FRUSTRATION in the Men's Federation League with quinault by finishing with the best elimination round record to clinch one of the two outright semifinal berths recently.

Sta. Elena's first out of the playoff rounds in previous duels in the league, closed out valley six wins, three losses and a loss by forgiven points in the season-ender to Group 2.

Kristopher topped Group 1 by sending out Mark Hilech to secure the other semimain semi-ticket.

Kristopher's 9 wins, 3 losses and 1 forfeit cracked up tied with Mark Hilech on rules. Sta. Elena's and lost hasn't at 14 points but the Binangonan team received the second slot with 28.3 match points against the latter's 27.

Mark Hilech will move go through the quarterfinal reign like Cumbungan, Tagaytay Highlands and defending champion Orchard.

Cumbungan (5-4-1) dealed twice-time champion Forest Hills (5-2-3) at a playoff berth via the forfeit. The two teams ended with similar 13 points in Group 2 but Cumbungan 28.5 match points proved the difference.

Fifteen was the second qualifier in Group 3, beating Valley with 12 points on a 5-1-4 record.

The fifteenmen opener off with Highlands in a rematch of last year's finals on Sept. 16-18.

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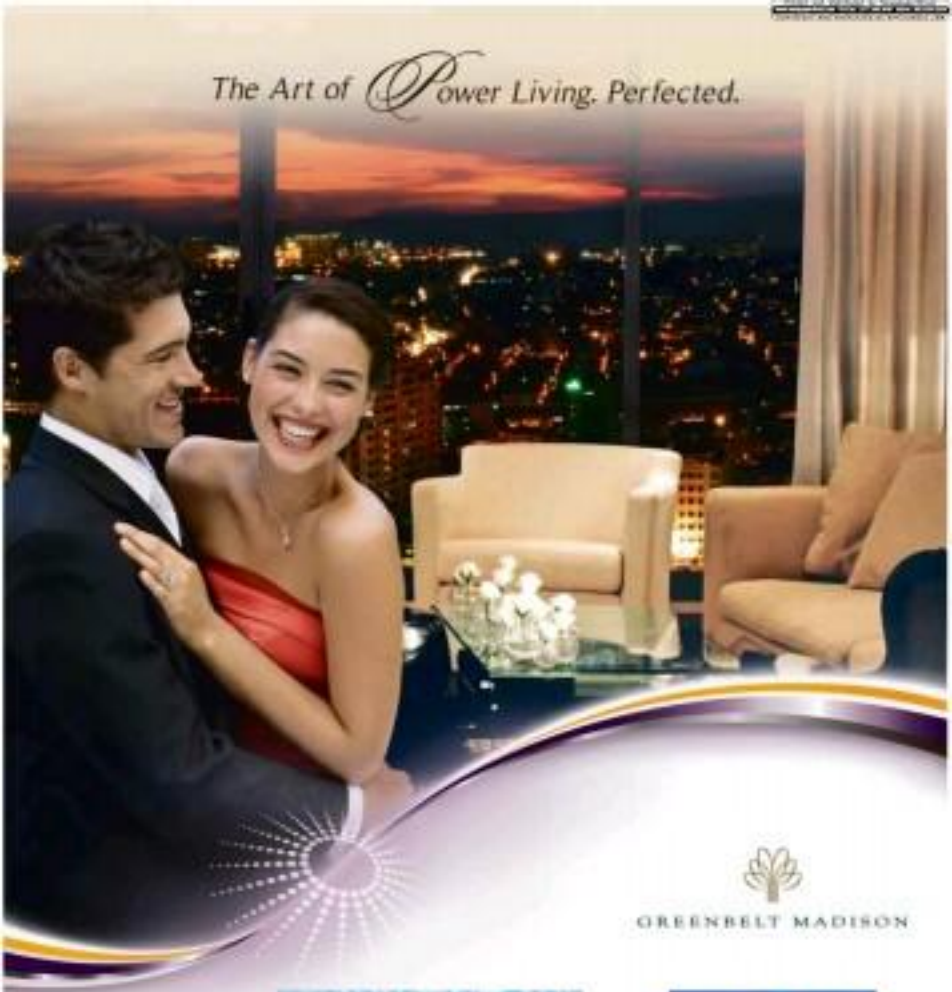

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DID YOU KNOW

WHEN the reconnaissance fleet sent by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi arrived in Luzon in 1570, there were already 28 Japanese, one of them a Christian, living in Manila.
Cyril J. Jurado, Inquirer Research

Basta maabilidad, may kapabilidad magpatakbo ng Petron Station.
Petron Retail Station

2 hurt in campus shooting

16-year-old student arrested after pen gun goes off

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWO FRESHMEN OF TONDO HIGH SCHOOL IN MANILA were wounded after an improvised gun which a fellow student had smuggled onto the campus went off yesterday morning.

Police took the gun holder, a 16-year-old boy, into custody following the shooting incident.

The injured, Mario Hinopol, 15, and Shaemaine Aguilar, 14, were taken to Mary Johnston Hospital for treatment.

Hinopol was hit in the back while Aguilar was wounded in the abdomen. Both remain confined in the hospital.

SPO1 Harley Tagon, Moncito Police District case investigator, said the shooting incident happened at around 9 a.m. on the Tondo High School campus.

The shooter told investigators that he was on his way to school when he found an improvised "pen gun" and decided to keep it.

During the morning break, the boy said he was toying with the gun when it suddenly went off and hit the victims who were standing near him.

The police investigator said the bullet went through Aguilar's body before it struck Hinopol in the back.

(ABOUT, A14)

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SEMINAR: Sept. 23, 2009, Richville Hotel, 269 EDSA, Mandaluyong City, 1-5 PM. Topics: Getting Organized; SEC/BIR Requirements; Corporate Social Responsibility; Project Management Cycle Overview; Sourcing/Funding; Best practices & techniques; Sustainability. To register, call Yokum Knowledge Center Publishing: 331-6286; 566-7524; 531-0384; 0919-228-9777; 0915-229-9780; mkunc@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com Limited seats only. Register Now!

Still no leads in ambush, says cop

By Julie M. Aurelio

A POLICE OFFICIAL SUSPECTED said that investigators were looking at alleged previous attempts on the life of a retired police official who survived an ambush on Saturday afternoon in Quezon City.

Supt. Teodolfo Batallo of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) said his men have yet to get a complete statement from retired Insp. Sagittarius "Willy" Sombero, who remains hospitalized for multiple gunshot wounds.

"We will look into possible links between Sombero's accident and past ambush attempts on Sombero but as of now, we will wait for him to recover," Batallo told reporters.

He declined to go into details about past attempts to kill Sombero, saying he learned of these for the first time when he visited the former police official in the hospital on Saturday night.

Sombero was supposed to undergo an operation yesterday morning to remove some of the bullets lodged in his body and to repair his hands.

On Saturday afternoon, he and his driver were in a Metro van when three men on a motorcycle fired upon the vehicle at the corner of E. Rodriguez Avenue and Tiburcio Street in Quezon City.

He was struck six times in different parts of his body, including once in the head, while his driver suffered a gunshot wound in the shoulder.

Doctors removed three of the bullets in an operation on the same day.

In an interview on Sunday, Sombero linked the ambush to the murders of publicist Salvador Encio and his driver-bodyguard Emmanuel Corbito.

He said he knew who were after him but refused to go into details.

Sombero was the vice president of Best World (BW) Resources before allegations about the company's illegal trading practices were reported in 2008. The murders of Encio and Corbito have been linked to the BW scandal.

Batallo, however, said investigators still have no leads in the case.

"We were able to talk to him on Saturday but he was under medication. So we will wait for him to recover. Investigators will look into all possible angles, including the Encio-Corbito link," he added.

Batallo said they would also examine Sombero's Antiterrorism Council (ATC) Edgar Tagorda for questioning.

GREEN CAMP

A policeman drives an e-jeep jokingly as he and passengers cheer as yesterday's launching of the green mode of transport in Camp Crame, Quezon City. The e-jeep will be used in transporting people around the national police headquarters. RAFY CABRAL

Barrameda slay suspect still confined in hospital

By DJ Yap

MANUEL JIMENEZ JR., SUSPECTED of murder victim Ruby Rose Barrameda-Jimenez and one of the primary suspects in her killing, remains confined in a hospital bed to diagnose some ailments two weeks after he was ordered arrested by a Malabon-Navotas court.

"The judge granted the motion by his lawyer to stay in the hospital," Senior Supt. Jerson Dorilas, Pasay police chief, said yesterday.

"If it were up to us, we'd like to transfer him already but the lawyer advised against transporting him considering his heart condition," the official added.

A court clerk, however, told the Inquirer that the court has yet to decide on Jimenez Jr.'s petition. Judge Hector Alcayde of the Malabon-Navotas Regional Trial Court Branch 170 will rule on the matter on Friday, Jason Hernandez said.

Dorilas, meanwhile, said the court would send its enforcement unit to look into Jimenez Jr.'s condition. The police chief had earlier denied giving special treatment to the murder suspect.

Ruby said Jimenez Jr. should have been taken to court last week but the judge was not available and flooding in the area stopped them from making the trip.

Jimenez Jr.'s lawyer later sought to amend his hospital stay upon his doctors' advice.

The murder suspect goes famous up to the Augusto police station. Since the charge was murder, no bail was recommended for his conditional freedom.

His caretaker was prompted by an arrest warrant issued by Alcayde.

Barrameda-Jimenez, sister of former beauty queen Rachel Barrameda, disappeared on March 14, 2007, after a heavy dispute with her estranged husband, Manuel Jimenez III, over the custody of their two children.

Her body was found in the waters of Navotas City by a boy.

The police later filed murder charges against Jimenez Jr., his brother Lope Jimenez and five other men.

MMDA to coordinate with PNP, PSG on traffic concerns

By Allison W. Lopez

UPON PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's order, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said police officials will coordinate with police authorities to ease traffic congestion during special events in areas under their jurisdictions.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said there was a need for closer coordination between the agency and the Philippine National Police or Presidential Security Group (PSG) on the choices of route or traffic rerouting for local, international or religious events and convoys for VIPs (very important persons).

"The President is very concerned but did she ordered us to coordinate with police authorities to avoid traffic congestion brought about by those gatherings. What we're asking from the police is that they should coordinate first with the MMDA when there are roads to be closed or [traffic to be] rerouted so we can make the appropriate adjustments," Fernando said.

He added that the President gave him the order after she was caught in a traffic jam on Ortigas Boulevard during a recent international conference of foreign observers held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

The President cancelled Cadillo to glad in a bid to airport near the PICC from Pedro Gil in Manila to Ortigas Boulevard and connecting up to Makati City.

Relaying Mr. Arroyo's concerns, Fernando asked the police district directors to submit a traffic plan to MMDA during certain events or public gatherings in their areas.

"The MMDA is the clearing house for traffic concerns, not the local government unit. Matters related to traffic should be directly coordinated with us," he explained.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) officers in charge, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosqueta-Ilio Manila Police District director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magsilay; Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mayuga; Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Benjamin Mauricio; Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Jaime Caballero; Quezon City Police District director, Chief Supt. Elmo San Diego and Northern Police District director, Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr.

The PSG, which is in charge of the President's security as well as that of visiting heads of state, was represented by its deputy commander, Col. Jesus Isagani Nicolas.

Since PICC and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) regularly host local and foreign conventions, Fernando asked the Southern Police District, which has jurisdiction over Pasay City, to establish its security outpost. Interlocking barricades and parking areas within the perimeter of PICC and CCP and not along Roxas Boulevard where there could obstruct traffic.

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METROBRIEFS

2 rob suspects killed

TWO SUSPECTED ROBBERS were killed in a shootout with police officers while two of their accomplices were arrested the other day in Pampanga town, Inspector Saturnino Mallari Jr., Senior Supt. Nestor Mitra said.

Another man identified only as "Bull" was killed in an alleged shootout with members of the Final police in Sitio Sulo, Barangay San Jose, a resort in Arayat. Supt. Ismael Dimaisip, Final police chief, said. Two of them alleged accomplices — Samuel Bago, 42, and Jeffrey Carreon, 30 — were arrested and taken into custody, while a fifth man who remained unidentified managed to escape, the police said. Based on the report, the men had stolen at about 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday (15 June) Honda, when the two men had parked in an allegedly stolen motorcycle. The alleged robbers, Ricky Rafael, 44, an owner-operator, saw the motorcycle that had been stolen Friday and immediately reported it to the police, which deployed a team of officers to the area. The investigation continued. Bago and Carreon were arrested and the two others escaped. A cal. .45 gun and a cal. .38 firearm were recovered at the scene, the police said. DJ Yap

TV host-dancer says she has settled obligations to SSS

By Julie M. Aurelio

TELEVISION HOST AND DANcer Regine Tolentino yesterday said she has already paid her obligations to the Social Security System (SSS) which filed a case against her earlier this month.

"I already settled it last week. Actually, I was not informed properly. I have the outstanding balances," she told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

On Sept. 4, assistant officer Marilyn Gonzales of the SSS Cubao branch filed a complaint against Tolentino (Regine Vera Perez in real life) with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for allegedly failing to remit the SSS contributions of her workers.

Tolentino is the owner of Regine's Children's Wear, a clothing store for kids, in Barangay Tomasinag, Lagro, Quezon City.

Gonzales claimed that Tolentino did not remit her employees' SSS contributions from August 2007 to January 2008 totaling P30,950.88.

"I have been regularly remitting the contributions on a monthly basis for the past 10 years that I have been in business," Tolentino said.

She added that the whole thing was a miscommunication and that she was not informed by the agency that she still had unpaid obligations.

"I was surprised that it already reached this level, that it already have a case," Tolentino said.

"I was told they [SSS] will withdraw the complaint because I already settled the issues with them," the TV host said, adding that she has to delay questions in terms of taxes or SSS contributions.

In her affidavit, Gonzales said that the total amount before to Tolentino including her of her unremitted obligations on Aug. 25 last year. The TV host, however, said she did not receive any notice from SSS.

DANGEROUS PLAYGROUND

Children play on top of a train's dilapidated cars in the Manila International Container Terminal, unaware that a misstep could lead to injuries. AFP

2 hurt in campus shooting

From page A12

The two girls were taken to the hospital while the shooter was taken into custody by school officials who later handed him over to the police.

The police investigators said they were also looking at the possible liability of school security officials for failing to prevent the boy from taking a weapon inside the school grounds.

In July 2008, a 15-year-old student in Dumaguete City was killed after an improvised pen gun his best friend had pocked up on the street and brought to school, also accidentally went off and hit him.

Why don't we forgive ourselves?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AS THE COLUMN WAS BEING written, Sen. Ping Lacson was reporting on the "Sonic" of the Senate the corruption of his former boss, deposed President Estrada, while he was in power.

Talk about gratitude!

It was for Erap, Ping would not be where he is today.

* * *

What Lacson told the media about Erap in his privilege speech yesterday was nothing new.

Erap's kind of governance was exposed at the impeachment proceedings against him in the Senate when eventually led to his ouster by people power.

Lacson's revelations, except his supposed non-involvement in the abduction/murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito, were a rehash of what were revealed during the impeachment trial.

* * *

The question foremost in the minds of many people is: What took Ping Lacson so long to make the revelations about his former boss?

Why only now, Ping, why?

* * *

If the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations is correct, Sen. Manny Villar is the overwhelming favorite to win the presidency in 2010.

Villar and other presidentiables aspirants have a lot of campaigning to do to offset the trend in favor of the son of the late President Cory and martyred Sen. Ninoy Aquino.

* * *

I've heard Noynoy talk during interviews on TV.

He's not the Noynoy we knew years ago who couldn't express himself very well.

His metamorphosis was apparently due to his closeness to Mitos Magkaysa and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, who are both very articulate and full of ideas.

But the Noynoy now seems very articulate and full of ideas, too.

He has apparently grown into his position of responsibility and into maturity.

* * *

Let's hope Noynoy follows the honesty and sincerity of his mother, but elements bar him from doing so.

The reason there were several coup attempts against then President Cory was her reductive kind of governance.

The young and idealistic military officers who staged the coup attempts thought the Cory government would forgive and forget.

In the Cory government, everything that President Marcos did was evil when there were things that also benefited the country.

So, Noynoy, drop the "good vs evil" manner in your campaign because you would be running off many voters.

In the first place, President Gloria, the supposed "evil one," is no longer running.

* * *

Jim Ansby Madrigal is running for President?

Is she serious?

She doesn't even know basic reality, a trait that every leader should have.

What did she do when she went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to renew her passport recently?

She and her bodyguards showed aside people who were lining up for their turn to get their passports so she could get ahead of him.

If she became president of the country she would become more oppressive.

* * *

Filipino expatriates are disaster after another almost every year.

Typhoons and floods that kill thousands are ordinary occurrences.

Why?

Perhaps it's in our collective unconscious brought about by our Christian religious.

Our religious...I'm not only referring to Catholic, but other Christian religions and sects as well—teach us that we are all sinners.

And since we are sinners, we deserve to be punished by the almighty.

What don't we just forgive ourselves so the misfortunes will stop visiting us?

Bin Laden: Obama powerless to stop war

CAIRO—AL-QAIDA LEADER Osama bin Laden described President Barack Obama as "powerless" to stop the war in Afghanistan, and mocked his inability to grasp why the Sept. 11 attacks occurred but "can you sit in without any understanding?"

The remarks by the terrorist leader were released two days after the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that he ordered. Bin Laden reportedly addresses the American people in a message timed around the Sept. 11 anniversary.

Bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding in the mountainous region along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, said current Middle East conditions "are mainly following the strategy of former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney to "promote the previous policies of fear to realize the interest of big companies."

"Neither does fighting in Iraq or Lebanon or Bush's pressure on the White House should have been thwarted," he said.

When Barack Obama became president and retained many of the Bush administration's military leaders, such as Defense Secretary Robert Gates, "you realize people do not have the will nor is a power his men who will not be able to end the war as he promised," Bin Laden said.

"If you end the war, so do it," Bin Laden said. "But if it is only rhetoric, all we will do is continue the war of attrition against you on all possible axes."

SITE Intelligence Group, a Internet monitoring firm, published a translation of the tape, which was also translated by The Associated Press.

The al-Qaeda leader sought to drive home key grievances often voiced in the Arab and Muslim world, where Washington's policies are seen as blatantly favoring Israel at the expense of the rights of Palestinians and other Arabs.

"My brave, dismembered and tested many fronts, for more than two-and-a-half decades, that the cause of our disagreement with you is your support to your Israeli allies who occupy our land of Palestine," Bin Laden said.

"The delay in your honoring these causes has cost you a lot without any result whatsoever," he said in the tape released by al-Qaida's media wing, as-Sahab.

"This position of yours, combined with some other injustices, pushed us to embellish the events of Sept. 11," Bin Laden said.

He said that it bears no real fault of the cited of the "suffering from the injustice of the Americans" that "you will realize that both our nations are victims of the policies of this White House," which he described as "a hostage" to interest groups and companies.

Intel Center, another company monitoring that material, said the 13-minute video shows a still picture of Bin Laden while the audio of the address plays.

The terse leader, who is believed to be hiding in the inaccessible region along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, argued against the claims that the wars launched by the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan are necessary for US security.

Along with the direct rhetoric, Bin Laden also follows an approach he has embraced repeatedly: working out to Americans in a gesture of conciliation—to see if new elections to convince one if the US moves to reconsider its support for Israel.

"You must realize the determine your position in your security, your blood, your children, your money, your jobs, your homes, your economy, and your reputation deserve to see that the security of the Israelis, their children and their economy?" he said.

"If you choose your security and cessation of war, and this is what the poll have shown, this requires you to work to punish those on your side who play with our security. We are ready to respond to this choice in a determined sound and just manner," he said.

AP

Afghanistan looks for way forward after fraud-marred election

KABUL—AFGHANISTAN'S ELECtoral officials on Monday counted the votes in Saturday's election, a task marred by reports of ballot stuffing and phantom voters, recalling new how much of the vote to throw out because of fraud.

Repeated delays in announcing full results from the Aug. 20 presidential vote, along with mounting evidence of widespread ballot fraud, have cast new political instability in Afghanistan at a time of rising Taliban violence and an increased US military presence.

An election complaints commission supported by the United Nations has said it found that ballots for President Hamid Karzai's lead in the count so far.

The eight-person Independent Election Commission was meeting on Monday morning and would make an announcement later, according to spokesperson Noor Mohammad Noor. The commission had been expected to say when it would announce long-delayed full preliminary results, but later it issued a brief statement saying only that there would be no further reporting of vote counts on Monday.

The United States and its allies were counting on the election to bolster support for the Afghan government, but internal reports of election fraud have raised the prospect of a protracted battle over results.

The latest partial results from more than two dozen candidates have Karzai with 54 percent and leading challenger Abdullah Abdullah with 28 percent. The numbers show the president on the path to win right victory—unless the votes eliminated were based overplaced pull him back down below the 50 percent threshold requiring a two-man runoff.

The current results reflect 91 percent of polling stations, with 5 percent of the votes still to be counted and the remaining 3 percent quarantined for suspected fraud.

On Sunday, the election commission met with officials from the UN-backed Electoral Complaints Commission to try to work out a deadline for releasing the full count, Noor said.

The complaints board has the power to throw out suspicious ballots, and it has already invalidated the results in scores of voting stations in southeastern Afghanistan, Karzai's political base.

It has called for recounts and audits in hundreds of other polling stations in the same region.

While Abdullah, a former foreign minister, has said he will accept the election outcome if all the declared results are honest, it is risk that throwing out blocks of votes from areas on the region will leave those in the countryside feeling cheated.

Karzai's lead is almost certain to shrink as the UN-backed commission completes investigations of hundreds of alleged cases of fraud.

The key is whether it tosses out enough votes to require a runoff, which would be difficult to organize.

AP

VATICAN'S BACKYARD

Italy breaks culture of silence on priest sex abuse

VERONA, ITALY—IT HAPPENED night after night, the deed was told, sometimes in the priest's bedroom, sometimes in the bathroom, even in the confessional.

When he was a young boy at a Catholic-run institute for the deaf, Alessandro Nardini says, priests sodomized him so frequently he came to fear "in 10 I were dead." Tale year, he said chronic ulcers from a medicine did something highly unusual for him: They were public with victims: they were forced to perform sex acts with priests.

For decades, a culture of silence has surrounded priest abuse in Italy where anyone short the Church is considered one of the country's most respected institutions.

Now, as the Vatican's backyard, a movement to air and punish clerical assaults is showing signs of finally taking hold.

73 documented cases

A yearlong Associated Press probe has documented 73 cases with allegations of sexual abuse by current or former priests over the past decade in Italy, with more than 235 victims.

The tally was compiled from local media reports, lawsuits by archdiocese of victims' groups and blogs. Almost all the cases have come out in the seven years since the scandal-ridden Boston Catholic priest abuse broke in the United States.

The numbers in Italy are still a mere trickle compared to the hundreds of cases in the court systems of the United States and Ireland.

But, according to the AP tally, the Italian Church lost to be loud to pay only a few hundred thousand euros (dollars) in civil damages to the victims, compared to $2.6 billion in abuse-related costs for the Boston archdiocese or more than 1 billion ($1.5 billion) in Ireland, the AP said.

However, the numbers still stand out in a country where experts of clerical sex abuse since virtually unknown as clerical rape. They point to an increasing willingness among the Italian public and—slowly—within the Vatican itself to look squarely at a tragedy where the standard cover-up may only just be the tip of the iceberg. The Italian church will not release the numbers of cases reported or of court settlements.

Implications

The implications of priest abuse loom large in Italy with its 30,000 priests in a nation of 60 million, forty-some more priests than all of South America or Africa. In the United States—where the bishop room 46,700 priests in a nation of 300 million—more than 4,000 Catholic clergy have been accused of molesting minors since 1950.

The Italian cases follow much the same pattern as the US and Irish scandals: children, parents often pressed on poor, physically or mentally disabled, or drug-addicted youths entrusted to their care. The chief students' speech impediments, for example, made the priests' admonition "you will tell" all the more creepy to victims.

In this predominantly Roman Catholic country, the Church enjoys such an exalted status that the Pope's pronouncements frequently top the evening news, without any challenge or commentary. Even those with confidential stories acknowledge the important role the Church plays in education, social services and caring for the poor.

As a result, less clear is exactly how it, including the ministerium, has responded to sex abuse claims. In addition, there's a media prohibition in small-town Italy, where one just doesn't speak about sex, much less air bedsheet-wetting priest and a child.

Taboo on top of taboo

"It's a taboo on top of a taboo," said Jacqueline Morini Bligh, who prosecuted several pedophile cases in Italy before becoming a judge. "This is the

VERONA'S Antonio Provolo Institute for the Deaf. A total of 67 former students signed a statement alleging that sexual abuse, pedophilia and corporal punishment occurred at the school from the 1950s to the 1980s at the hands of priests and brothers of the Congregation for the Company of Poor.

AP

perfect storm."

Bligh, who presided over a landmark 1996 case involving a priest who molested boys in a church-run orphanage, said the Church's influence in Italy is so great that "you will realize that both our nations are victims of the policies of this White House," which he described as "a hostage" to interest groups and companies.

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AP

VATICAN'S BACKYARD

Italy breaks culture of silence on priest sex abuse

VERONA, ITALY—IT HAPPENED night after night, the deed was told, sometimes in the priest's bedroom, sometimes in the bathroom, even in the confessional.

When he was a young boy at a Catholic-run institute for the deaf, Alessandro Nardini says, priests sodomized him so frequently he came to fear "in 10 I were dead." Tale year, he said chronic ulcers from a medicine did something highly unusual for him: They were public with victims: they were forced to perform sex acts with priests.

For decades, a culture of silence has surrounded priest abuse in Italy where anyone short the Church is considered one of the country's most respected institutions.

Now, as the Vatican's backyard, a movement to air and punish clerical assaults is showing signs of finally taking hold.

73 documented cases

A yearlong Associated Press probe has documented 73 cases with allegations of sexual abuse by current or former priests over the past decade in Italy, with more than 235 victims.

The tally was compiled from local media reports, lawsuits by archdiocese of victims' groups and blogs. Almost all the cases have come out in the seven years since the scandal-ridden Boston Catholic priest abuse broke in the United States.

The numbers in Italy are still a mere trickle compared to the hundreds of cases in the court systems of the United States and Ireland.

But, according to the AP tally, the Italian Church lost to be loud to pay only a few hundred thousand euros (dollars) in civil damages to the victims, compared to $2.6 billion in abuse-related costs for the Boston archdiocese or more than 1 billion ($1.5 billion) in Ireland, the AP said.

However, the numbers still stand out in a country where experts of clerical sex abuse since virtually unknown as clerical rape. They point to an increasing willingness among the Italian public and—slowly—within the Vatican itself to look squarely at a tragedy where the standard cover-up may only just be the tip of the iceberg. The Italian church will not release the numbers of cases reported or of court settlements.

Implications

The implications of priest abuse loom large in Italy with its 30,000 priests in a nation of 60 million, forty-some more priests than all of South America or Africa. In the United States—where the bishop room 46,700 priests in a nation of 300 million—more than 4,000 Catholic clergy have been accused of molesting minors since 1950.

The Italian cases follow much the same pattern as the US and Irish scandals: children, parents often pressed on poor, physically or mentally disabled, or drug-addicted youths entrusted to their care. The chief students' speech impediments, for example, made the priests' admonition "you will tell" all the more creepy to victims.

In this predominantly Roman Catholic country, the Church enjoys such an exalted status that the Pope's pronouncements frequently top the evening news, without any challenge or commentary. Even those with confidential stories acknowledge the important role the Church plays in education, social services and caring for the poor.

As a result, less clear is exactly how it, including the ministerium, has responded to sex abuse claims. In addition, there's a media prohibition in small-town Italy, where one just doesn't speak about sex, much less air bedsheet-wetting priest and a child.

Taboo on top of taboo

"It's a taboo on top of a taboo," said Jacqueline Morini Bligh, who prosecuted several pedophile cases in Italy before becoming a judge. "This is the perfect storm."

Bligh, who presided over a landmark 1996 case involving a priest who molested boys in a church-run orphanage, said the Church's influence in Italy is so great that "you will realize that both our nations are victims of the policies of this White House," which he described as "a hostage" to interest groups and companies.

VERONA'S Antonio Provolo Institute for the Deaf. A total of 67 former students signed a statement alleging that sexual abuse, pedophilia and corporal punishment occurred at the school from the 1950s to the 1980s at the hands of priests and brothers of the Congregation for the Company of Poor.

AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesa

WORLDBRIEFS

China to show off military might

BEIJING—China's biggest military parade in a decade will show off an Army bristling with the missiles' new capabilities and deliver a potent message to the United States and other nations not to underestimate Beijing's defense power. Some 8,000 troops, 580 pieces of military hardware and 160 aircraft will take part in the parade Oct. 1 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. In a preview of the parade, upgraded intercontinental DF-31 nuclear missiles capable of striking Washington rolled among their trucks along with advanced short-range DF-11 and DF-15 missiles, new-generation YJ-62 anti-ship missiles and DF-21D long-range cruise missiles—intended to strike targets in rival Taiwan and deter the US Navy from coming to the island's defense. But seen in the parade's full spectacle capped in the days next above Tiananmen Square are domestically produced J-10 jet fighters. AP

Apollo moon rocks lost on Earth

AMSTERDAM—Attention, custodians of the world: Do you know where your moon rocks are? The discovery of a fake moon rock in the Netherlands' national museum should be a wake-up call for more than 120 countries that received gifts of lunar samples from both the Apollo 11 flights in 1969 and Apollo 17 three years later. Nearly 270 rocks scooped up by US astronauts are a ghost to foreign countries by the Moon administration. But according to experts and research by The Associated Press, the whereabouts of some of the small rocks are unknown. AP

Study links cancer, death, depression

VANCOUVER, Canada—People with cancer who are depressed are more likely to die than are patients with good mental health, psychologists reported on Monday in the science journal Cancer. The study reported that death rates from cancer "were up to 25 percent higher in patients experiencing depressive symptoms and up to 38 percent higher in patients diagnosed with major or minor depression." "In both of those groups, you can predict cancer mortality," said lead researcher Jillian Sattie of the University of British Columbia. AFP

Shower heads laden with bacteria

CHICAGO—Shower heads can deliver a host full of dangerous pathogens, according to a study published Monday which found them to be ideal breeding grounds for bacteria. US researchers analyzed 50 shower heads from nine different cities and found 30 percent had potential significant levels of a pathogen linked to lung disease called mycobacterium avium. Within the pathogen is common to residential water systems, the levels found clinging to shower heads is often "dramatically" more than 100 times higher than the "background" levels in the water. AFP

Grizzly bear gets swim lessons

HELENA, Montana—A 7-year-old mustang has to swim a nothing more unless it's a 350-kilogram (800-pound) grizzly bear taking the plunge. Bruno the bear slapped the water a few times then gingerly backed into the hard the terrified white intruders quarked into last week. Casey Anderson was teaching Bruno, who was born incapable, how to swim and catch fish for a National Geographic special called "Expedition Kodiak," scheduled to run next year. "I've had two cubs in the wild, and I've never seen anything like that," Brutus, who served as bear mom or bear in dominant wedding. AP

Sarkozy wants happiness used as indicator

PARIS—French President Nicolas Sarkozy is calling for a "revolution" in the way economic growth is measured so that happiness and well-being can be included in measurements. The head of a country known for the wine, cheese and long holidays also wants the French government to study new ways of measuring economic progress. The results of a 25-month study by Nobel prize-winning US economists Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen of India was delivered to Sarkozy on Monday. It recommends shifting the emphasis from gross domestic product, which measures economic production, to well-being and sustainability. AP

UN cites Cambodian genocide museum

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Cambodia's Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, formerly a prison and torture center operated by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s, has been declared by the United Nations as a world heritage site, providing assurance for its historical documents. The Cambodian government and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization— Unesco—approved a meeting on Monday to establish a national committee to oversee the museum to "guarantee its security designation" Memory of the World" site. AP

Big trouble brewing for Democrats in 2010

NEW YORK—DESPITE sweeping Democratic successes in the past two national elections, increasing unemployment and President Barack Obama's slipping support could lead to double-digit losses for the party in next year's congressional races and may even threaten their control of the House of Representatives.

OBAMA: Public support for him is dipping.

Fifty-four new Democrats were swept into the House in 2006 and 2008, helping the party claim a decisive majority in voters soured on a Republican president and embraced Obama's message of hope and change.

Many of the new Democrats are in districts carried by Republican foes. John McCain in last year's presidential contest; others are in traditional swing districts that have proved tough for either party to hold.

From New Hampshire to Nevada, those Democrats also will be forced to defend votes on Obama's massive $787-billion economic recovery package and on energy legislation viewed by many as a job killer in an already weak economy.

Add to that the absence of Obama from the top of the ticket, which could reduce turnout among blacks, liberals and young people, and the likelihood of a highly motivated Republican base confronted by the president's proposed health care plan and angry at what they consider reckless spending and high debt.

Taken together, it could be the same toxic environment for Democrats since 1994, when the party lost 34 House incumbents and 54 seats altogether. Democrats have a 256-178 edge in the House, with one vacancy. Republicans would have to pick up 40 seats to regain control.

"When you have big swings as Democrats did in 2006 and 2008, inevitably some weak candidates get elected. And when the environment gets very stand-up tough challenging, a number of them are going to lose," said Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in California.

Since the mid-19th century, the party that controls the White House has lost seats in virtually every midterm election. The exceptions were in 1934, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted the Great Depression, and in 2002, after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, catapulted George W. Bush's image as a leader.

With history as a guide, Democratic Rep. Chris Van Hollen, who heads his party's House campaign committee, said he had warned colleagues to be prepared for an exceptionally challenging environment going into 2010.

But Van Hollen said voters would make their choices on the strength of the national economy and would reward Democrats for working aggressively to improve it. AP

BAD NEWS FOR JOURNALISTS

More people believe they're biased

NEW YORK—MORE BAD NEWS for journalists: The percentage of Americans who believe their work is inaccurate and biased continues to grow.

Nearly two-thirds—63 percent—of Americans surveyed by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press believe that news stories are often inaccurate. That's a flip from when Pew first asked that question in 2005, when 34 percent of respondents believed stories were frequently inaccurate.

In its latest survey, Pew also found that 74 percent of respondents believe stories tend to favor one side of an issue over another, up from 66 percent two years ago.

Those trends tend to go hand in hand, said Andrew Kohut, the Pew center's director.

"If people believe that news reports are often biased, they will say they're inaccurate," Kohut said.

The findings indicate US newspapers and broadcasters could be alienating the audiences they are struggling to keep as they try to survive financial turmoil.

Pew surveyed 1,500 adults by landline telephone and cell phone from July 22 to 26. The margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Pew Research's questionnaire didn't attempt to gauge how drinking newspapers and other cutbacks at news organizations are affecting people's perceptions, although the reductions probably haven't helped, said Michael Dimock, an associate director for the center.

The financial problems mainly stem from a steep decline in the ad sales that generate most of newspapers' revenue. Newspapers' print edition have been losing readers to the Internet, and broadcasters' audiences are fragmenting in an age of cable TV and satellite radio.

The budget squeeze "means that's just doesn't get checked as carefully as they should," according to Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times.

But he still believes many media outlets will go to great lengths to get the facts right and even up to three mistakes when the information is wrong.

"The great flood that goes under the heading 'news media' has been poisoned by junk blogs, gossip shows, shout radio and unlike-TV journalism that don't deserve to be treated," Keller told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

The Internet also has made it easier to research information, and find errors in news stories, said Kathleen Carroll, the AP executive editor. And the Web's discussion boards spread word of mistakes when they're found.

Carroll said she hoped the increased scrutiny and accountability fostered by the Internet would lead to better journalism. AP

Meltdown: Economy, banking sector worry most Americans

WASHINGTON—ONE YEAR after the collapse of Lehman Brothers sparked Wall Street on the brink of collapse, 80 percent of Americans remain pessimistic in their economic outlook.

WASHINGTON—ONE YEAR after the collapse of Lehman Brothers sparked Wall Street on the brink of collapse, 80 percent of Americans remain pessimistic in their economic outlook. Most Americans still believe the economy will get worse before it gets better, according to a new poll released Monday by The Associated Press-GfK.

Even more—88 percent—rate the condition of the economy as poor and a majority worry about their own ability to make ends meet. The pessimistic outlook sets the stage for President Barack Obama as he attempts to portray the financial sector as increasingly confident and stable and presses Congress to act on new banking regulations.

The public sentiment also poses a challenge to central elements of Obama's governing agenda. Half of those surveyed said deficit reduction should be a national priority over increased spending on health care, education or alternative energy.

"I know a lot of people who don't have health care and really can't afford it," said Judy Parkey, a 57-year-old grandmother from Sedalia, Missouri, who has stated four grandchildren and is living on disability payments.

But she added: "The economy is so bad. You've heard the expression getting blood out of a turnip? ... Well, that's what's going on."

In a CBS interview that aired Sunday on the TV news magazine "60 Minutes," Obama acknowledged the public's quandary.

Who's to blame?

"This is a very difficult economic environment. People are feeling anxious," he said. "And I think it is absolutely fair to say that people aren't feeling very confident about it."

Still, Obama generally avoided public blame for the recession or the condition of the banking sector.

Only one out of five surveyed said Obama bore responsibility for the recession; 51 percent blamed former President George W. Bush and 19 percent blamed former President Bill Clinton.

Financial institutions, however, bear the brunt of the criticism—79 percent of those surveyed said banks and lenders that made risky loans deserve quite a bit of the blame.

Many might prevent hold the federal government responsible for not adequately regulating banks and 63 percent blamed borrowers who could not afford to repay loans.

Stimulus package

It is a glimmer of good news for the administration, 37 percent of those surveyed said the government's massive economic stimulus package improved the economy, up from a 19 percentage point increase over July. Nearly six out of 10, however, said they are not confident that the $787 billion stimulus package approved in March by Congress will do more good than harm and reject spending cuts the economy will do any good.

The White House has been promoting the stimulus package as a job creator and job saver that has helped keep unemployment from rising above its current 9.7 percent level—the highest since 1983.

Michael Daniels, a 58-year-old unemployed plumber from Orlando, Florida, said that while he believed that the spending package would ultimately stimulate the economy, it had yet to help him as he laid off wife and two sons daughter.

He said he appreciated Obama's job so far, but not Congress' efforts. "The people in Congress need to quit bickering about party issues and start worrying about people issues."

The Obama administration is as has begun to portray the financial crisis in more upbeat terms, eager to make the case that government interventions began on the Date-President George W. Bush and continued, intact or expanded, under Obama have brought stability to the markets.

Obama plans to deliver a speech on Monday—the anniversary of Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy—to outline the administration's achievements and press Congress to enact changes to bank regulations.

But the 40-60% poll illustrates the difficulty he faces.

Big medical expenses

More Americans worry about losing big, unexpected medical expenses now than they did in July—up 7 percentage points to 60 percent among those polled. Likewise, more worry that the value of their stocks and investment investments will drop—up 6 percentage points from July to 64 percent.

Even in October, then President Bush pushed a $700 billion financial rescue package through Congress on the condition that only half could be spent without further congressional authority, Obama, upon becoming president in January, succeeded in getting the second amount released, despite grousing upon Senate among lawmakers about the wisdom of such a bailout.

Obama has repeatedly said that the source of the financial mess would be incomplete without a new regulatory regime that would prevent a recurrence of the crisis. Obama has sent the outlines of possible regulation to Congress.

Promise of lawmakers

Key lawmakers in the House and Senate have promised Obama legislation by the end of the year, but there is vigorous debate over key elements of Obama's plan.

Autodesk Wi

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nuñeza

BUSINESS

Forefront

Gov't OKs 6 'green' power projects

$983.5M in investments to add 379 MW of renewable energy

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY YESTERDAY AWARDED SIX service contracts for wind and hydroenergy power projects and a certificate of registration for a biomass project, which could generate as much as 379 megawatts in additional capacity.

Based on the rule of thumb on renewable energy investments, the six companies are expected to invest a combined P983.3 million in the country's renewable energy sector.

"With these projects, a total capacity of 379 MW renewable energy is really coming on strong this year. I am very enthusiastic how these projects will pan out in the coming years," said Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes.

Three companies were awarded four new wind energy service contracts—Energy Development Corp. for its planned 86-MW wind farm in Burgos, Ilocos Norte; Northern Luzon Oil/Aris Corp. for its 50-MW wind project on Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte; and PetroEnergy Resources Corp., which bagged two contracts for a 30-MW project in Ivad, Bangui-ilan and a 30-MW project in Bidan, Ilocos Norte.

Meanwhile, Energy Logics Philippines Inc.'s pre-commercial contract for a 120-MW wind farm in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, was converted to a wind energy service contract.

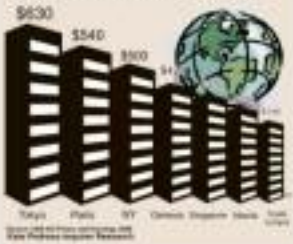
Investments for wind power projects are estimated to reach as much as $2.5 million for every megawatt, Reyes said during yesterday's contract signing.

Meanwhile, a hydroenergy service contract was granted to Oriental Energy and Power Generation Corp. for its 18-MW project in Mindoro, Aklan. According to Reyes, it could take at least $2 million to generate a megawatt of hydropower.

GOVT/B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Average price of overnight hotel stay is $310 (2008)



Banks keep ₱679B in BSP deposit facility

By Michelle V. Remo

MONEY DEPOSITED IN THE CENTRAL bank's special deposit account (SDA) facility swelled to P679 billion as of the first week of August, an amount Citigroup said would help temper growth of money circulating in the Philippine economy.

Citigroup said in a paper on its assessment of monetary conditions in the Philippines that growth of money supply, one of the factors influencing economic growth, would be unaffected by 15 percent of the current year gain that banks place a huge amount of their funds in the SDA facility rather than use them to lend more to the public.

The BSP facility is where banks may place funds to generate interest income in a virtually risk-free way. Analysts said banks were placing a huge amount of funds in the SDA.

BANKS/B1

PREBON VS TRADITION

Trading firms in 'poaching' row

By Dazzle L. Lucas

ONE OF THE BIGGEST BOND AND foreign exchange trading houses in the country was recently given the green light by the Court of Appeals to sue its former chief and director for allegedly helping a rival firm poach its employees and staff.

In its complaint, securities trading firm Tullet Prebon (Phils.) Inc. said its former president and managing director, Jaime Villalon, and director Mercedes Obsidian "conspired" to help Tradition Financial Services (Phils.) Inc. set up local operations staffed with former Prebon traders.

The company claimed its traders were induced by Villalon and Obsidian to transfer to the rival firm while both officials were still working for Prebon—in violation of the Corporation Code, since they were still working for Prebon as high-ranking officials at the time the poaching occurred.

Prebon is one of the top three securities brokers in the country, having gained market share over the years through "hard work," according to the company's original complaint filed in August 2005.

"Tradition, on the other hand, wanted to infiltrate the Philippine market by hook or by crook," the complaint added. "It wanted to do so without, however, abiding by legal ways of competition but through deceit and illegal acts."

According to Prebon, Villalon met with 26 of its brokers in August of last year to convince them to leave the company and transfer to Tradition.

During a subsequent meeting that included officials of Tradition, the Prebon traders were asked to resign en masse. Team trades were also allegedly told to redraw their shows of their imminent transfer to Tradition.

"Thus, in furtherance of their

TRADING/B2

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Negative perception of RP threatens BPO firms /B8

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱48.89 = $1

April 1 p.m., Sept. 14, 2009

₱48.80 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2009

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Stocks down on profit-taking

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.19 PERCENT lower yesterday on profit-taking, dealers said.

The composite index fell 48.18 points to close at 2,821.73. The all-shares index shed 1.2 percent, or 22.28 points, to close at 1,800.88.

A total of 4.66 million shares worth P2.51 billion changed hands.

Decliners led gainers, 190:107, while 64 issues closed unchanged.

The peso averaged 48.41 to the dollar in morning trade.

"The market was up in recent days, so it's time to take a breather," Jose Rocas of Eagle Equities told Dow Jones Newswires, adding that the market remained in a "consolidation mode."

Among the day's losers were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which shed 0.8 percent to close at P3,405, and Ayala Land Inc., which closed 2.2 percent down at P11.

AP

SAVE ON A RAINY DAY
LOW CASH OUT
with affordable low monthly amortization
₱68,400 for Vios* and ₱79,300 for Innova**
NO CHATTEL MORTGAGE
Free luggage tray
For TFS Lease-to-Own plans only
Your easiest way to own a Toyota Innova or Vios!
FREE GAS CARD
For all TFS Financing transactions
FREE 3-YEAR LTO registration
HURRY! HERE'S YOUR FINAL CHANCE
Rush to your Toyota dealer today!
Big savings also available for cash buyers
Avail of new financing packages for the Innova
Attractive deals also available for other Toyota models. Terms and conditions apply
TOYOTA
TOYOTA moving forward

Sumitomo, local nickel group to put up $1.3-B plant in Surigao

SUMITOMO METAL MINING OF Japan and Nickel Asia Corp., the country's biggest nickel mining group, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding in Japan to proceed with a $1.3-billion nickel processing plant in the municipality of Claver, Surigao del Norte.

Nickel Asia said the project would take three years to complete and construction is expected to start early next year. The project will represent the biggest foreign investment in the Philippine mineral sector to date.

The plant will be constructed adjacent to Taganito Mining Corp.'s nickel plant. Taganito, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia, will supply all of the required nickel ore to the plant over an estimated 30-year project life, while Nickel Asia will take a 20- to 25-percent equity interest in the project under a joint venture company called TMM Corp. The output of the plant, a mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide, will be purchased by Sumitomo for final processing at its refinery in Japan.

This will be the country's second downstream nickel processing plant by the Sumitomo-Nickel Asia tie-up. The first plant is under Coral Bay Nickel Corp., a joint venture between a Japanese consortium led by Sumitomo and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., another Nickel Asia subsidiary.

Commercial operations of the operations of Nio Tuba, in southern Palawan, the plant became operational in 2005 and has been a relevant and commercial success. Its initial capacity of 14,000 tons a year of nickel metal equivalent has since been doubled.

Nickel Asia said the new project, triple the size of the initial Coral Bay plant, was considered to be potentially beneficial to the country due to the value-added created by the downstream mineral processing plant.

The project is expected to employ about 1,000 personnel during the construction stage and 1,000 full-time employees when operational, adding that substantial benefits would accrue to the adjoining communities from its social development management projects, while yearly exports of its product would bolster the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The memorandum was signed by Manuel B. Zamora Jr., chair and founder of the Nickel Asia group, and Gerard H. Brimo, president and CEO.

SMC, DMCI take over toll project

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL CORP. AND DM Consunji Inc. have completed a joint takeover of a controlling 67-percent stake in the private sector consortium undertaking the Subic-Tarlac-Nueva Ecija Expressway build-operate-transfer (BOT) project.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel and DMCI announced the completion of their respective subscriptions to bulk of the P3.3-billion capital increase for Private Infra Dev Corp. (PIDC), which owns the BOT contract for the toll road project.

SMC, through infrastructure subsidiary Rapid Thoroughfares Inc. (RTI), acquired a 33-percent stake in PIDC.

DMCI, on the other hand, announced it had subscribed to 1.3 million common shares, representing a 32.22-percent additional interest in PIDC. As such share has a par value of P1,000 each, this subscription implied a capital infusion of about P1.3 billion.

SMC and DMCI accounted for P2.07 billion or 87.7 percent of the capital build-up program for PIDC. This capital increase represented about a quarter of the P15-billion estimated project cost for the toll-way.

It was earlier reported that a syndicate of banks led by the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines would provide financing to the project.

The 49-kilometer expressway project will proceed from La Paz, Tarlac — at the end of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) — to Rosario, La Union. The three-phase project is expected to be completed by 2013.

Trading . . .

From page B1

scheme, the respondents sought to sabotage [Probuco's] business relationship with [the] clients so that Trellises could take them over," the complaint said.

The complaint was initially dismissed by prosecutors for lack of merit. But a review conducted by the Department of Justice concluded that there was probable cause to merit the filing of charges against the former Probuco officials, who now work for Trellises.

These officials raised the issue with the Court of Appeals, which dismissed their plea last month, paving the way for charges to be filed against them.

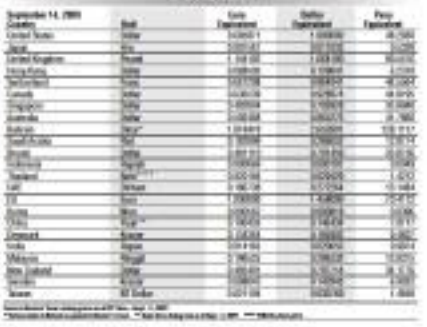
Also included in the complaint filed by Probuco are Singapore- and London-based Trellises officials James Iorc and Mahadika Ishalis.

The arrangements of Hilston and Cheatham were scheduled for Sept. 20. According to a legal source, Ishalis, Iorc and another former director of Teller Peruvian now have outstanding warrants for their arrest, while hold departure orders and watchlist orders have been issued against the respondents by the Department of Justice.

The respondents have denied Peruvian's allegations, saying that there was nothing illegal or criminal about their actions since the employees' transfer to the rival firm was "done out of free will without any force, intimidation or pressure on their part."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of September 14, 2009


CURRENCIES

September 14, 2009 Countries	Unit	Buy Equivalent	Sell Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	1.00000	46.7500
Japan	Yen	0.01147	0.01148	0.5366
United Kingdom	Pound	1.64100	1.64200	76.7500
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.12900	0.12900	6.0300
Switzerland	Franc	0.91700	0.91800	42.8900
Canada	Dollar	0.91700	0.91800	42.8900
Singapore	Dollar	0.69500	0.69600	32.5200
Australia	Dollar	0.82100	0.82200	38.4200
Bahrain	Dinar	2.65400	2.65600	124.1100
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26600	0.26700	12.4800
Brunei	Dollar	0.69500	0.69600	32.5200
Kuwait	Dinar	3.40200	3.40400	159.0700
Thailand	Baht	0.02900	0.02900	1.3570
UAE	Dirham	0.27200	0.27300	12.7600
EU	Euro	1.46900	1.47000	68.7100
China	Yuan	0.14600	0.14700	6.8800
Korea	Won	0.00078	0.00078	0.0365
Denmark	Kroner	0.19700	0.19800	9.2600
India	Rupee	0.01900	0.01900	0.8900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.28600	0.28700	13.4200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.66100	0.66200	30.9300
Sweden	Krona	0.12800	0.12900	6.0300
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.03100	0.03100	1.4500

Source: Bank of the Philippine Islands

State of the market

MARKET RIDER

Jhen Sumerra

WITHOUT SO MUCH TECHNICAL jargon, the market since August had been confined to a 200-point trading band at the 2,700 to 2,900 psychological level of the Philippine Stock Exchange index or PSEi.

Therefore, the more often the market ends a mo'd about 200 point in June and another 400 points in July or a total of 600 points and advance in two months.

Since two weeks ago, mixed showed that trading had been confined within the upper 200-point limit of the above described 200-point trading band.

After two consecutive months of continuous climb, therefore, the market had ended on a "sideways movement" in August. Then, in early September, as the market continued to consolidate, stock prices ended at the upper limit of the said consolidation band on a "sideways upward bias."

The PSEi on of last Friday stood at the 2,879.81 psychological level. This was some 50 points away from the 2,930 level, the 2,900. The question now is, "are we in for another market rout?"

Result of week 14

To The Oracle, his answer would be a big "yes!" He pointed last Friday into trading orders that increased his risk exposure in the markets at the end of the week. He bid price, though, on First Gen Corp. (FGEN) was established. It was via low FGEN's lowest transaction price for the day was P15.25.

Tanlo88 was of the same opinion as The Oracle. Earlier in Thursday, she posted two trading orders that were or less left for two much exposed in the market. The first was to pick up more shares of PGEN. The second was to unload her holdings of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPI) at "market price" for any price upon executed following the news that the company was on a road show overseas to sell its shares at 1% to 15.7% to raise $200 million to $300.8 million, which will be used to finance infrastructure projects.

To Filipro, the move was also to increase MPI's public float to 15.8 percent—or even as much as 20.0 percent—from its present 2.7 percent.

On the lower of liquidity and market perfectness economic, the move is good. It will attract institutional investors and big asset managers. It will provide for market depth and width to allow active trading in the long run, which leads to more price volatility or higher market prices.

Similarly, Team 20 posted many trading orders on Friday that left him with a cash balance of P936.46 only. His trading orders were to load up on FGEN and to temporarily divest on another big-guy Cyber Bay Corp. (CBY).

But even as the divestment was still CBY, he did appear to be undecided. His asking price was very attractive of what the client are showing, I'm bothered by a market saying industry says that "if it's too obvious, it's obviously wrong."

This week, we'll probably see more signs that will give us an idea of what really is the state of the market. But waiting longer before making a decision seems would most likely make us lose more opportunity. But that's how life is: too risk may mean less returns and more risk may mean higher returns. If you have "read my tips," you know what to do!

You may reach the Market Rider at marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or jhen_sumerra@yahoo.com

Table 1

DATE	STOCK	NO. OF SHARES	UNIT PRICE	BUY	SELL	TOTAL AMOUNT
Tanlo88						
9/11	MPI	6,000	4.40		19,043.16	27,243.16
	PGEN	1,000	17.70	17,700.00		8,200.16
The Oracle						
9/11	PGEN	15,000	3.40	34,743.53		109,743.53
	PGEN	5,000	17.75	88,743.53		
Team 20						
9/11	CBY	50,000	0.75		37,456.21	
	PGEN	500	16.00	8,000.00		
	PGEN	500	16.25	13,993.39		993.82

Table 2

Overall Performance Standings

For Week 14 September 7 - 11, 2009

(Original Virtual Investment: PhP500,000.00)

Standing	Player	% Returns on Investment	Market Value of Investments	Cash Balance	Total Value of Investments
1	The Oracle	-10.76	89,493.00	410,444.94	499,937.94
2	Tanlo88	-14.83	368,000.00	105.00	426,873.84
3	Cyber Trader	-14.33	414,134.27	2,388.79	429,522.86
4	Team 20	-18.60	355,444.44	8,000.00	362,863.82
5	Integrator	-21.26	327,140.00	262,271.42	589,427.32
6	DH Trader	-21.63	385,444.00	8,234.00	393,687.00
7	Predator	-22.73	316,284.76	297,885.38	614,238.46

Gov't OKs 6 'green' . . .

Pressagro 81

Mindoro State Governor Ho- sena also awarded two certificates of registration for its biomass gasification project in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. The first certificate was for a project expected to generate 35 MW of biomass power, while the second certificate was for a 30-MW capacity for the same project.

Reyes explained that biomass projects could be more expensive as investors needed to pass in as much as $1.5 million to produce a megawatt.

"This August well with the government's energy self-sufficiency program. This would not only be for the country's energy security, adequacy, sustainability and affordability, but would also be for environmental sustainability and social equity as [these projects] would [promote] employment in the countryside," Reyes said.

According to Assistant Energy Secretary Mario Marasigan, the DOE was now energized with applications for renewable energy projects. He disclosed that applications for some 58 rated power projects and 20 hydropower projects remained pending.

Banks keep . . .

Pressagro 81

facility because of their high level of liquidity at the moment and because they are assured of profits and secured loans since provided by the current crisis.

As of end-June, bank placements with the BSP's SDA facility stood at P584.9 billion, up by P288 billion from a year ago. The huge year-on-year rise was despite the move of the BSP to cut its key policy rates to historic lows, which means interest rate on SDA placements was also at its lowest.

In 2007, SDA placements only stood at P50 billion.

Interest rate earned from SDA placements is set at 50 basis points below the central bank's overnight borrowing rate, which currently stands at 4 percent.

The many placements of banks with the BSP's SDA facility has elicited negative comments considering that the economy needed much pump-priming. Caliber said money placed in the SDA facility could have been used instead for lending to consumers and businesses to counter the economic downturn.

Victor Abola, economics professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said he urged the BSP to close down its SDA facility, doing so would prompt banks to lend more and help in the efforts to boost growth of the economy.

The Civil Aeronautics Board has approved Singapore Airlines' request to increase the Nets-user's Fee from USD90.00 to USD280.00 and the Refund Service Charge from USD25.00 to USD50.00 per approval dated July 24, 2009. The new fees shall be implemented beginning 01 October 2009.

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British miner withdraws from Kay Tanda project

By Rico T. Delavendra

ANGLO MINING PLC, A GOLD MINER listed on the London Stock Exchange, has pulled out of the gold-silver Kay Tanda project in Batangas.

In a statement, Anglo said the resource potential of the Kay Tanda deposit did not meet internal thresholds for investment. Consequently, the company will not be pursuing the project further," Anglo said.

The company reviewed the resource data for Kay Tanda after the completion of 114 diamond drill holes to four which were made to test for the presence of high-grade epithermal quartz veins.

The Kay Tanda deposit is owned by Tesorio-listed Mindoro Resources Ltd.

Anglo's principal activities include gold mining and exploration in Malaysia (an 100 percent owner of the Penjom Gold mine, the country's largest gold producer), Indonesia (an 80 percent owner of the North Lanut gold mine and Bukan project in North Sulawesi) and Bukkan Exec (an 80 percent owner of the Lanut gold project currently in the later stages of construction).

It also has a number of other advanced exploration projects in Southeast Asia and West Africa.

CebuPac rides autumn rush to Osaka with seat sale

CEBU PACIFIC IS OFFERING CHEAPER tickets to Osaka to attract passengers keen on joining the autumn rush of tourists to cacophy Kyoto.

In a statement, the low-cost carrier said it was offering P2,499 per seat inclusive flights to Osaka from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15, 2009. Those who want to snap up the promo tickets must do so from Sept. 15 to 21, 2009.

A check with Cebu Pacific's website showed that a regular one-way ticket to Osaka for travel on Oct. 15 is currently priced at P4,998.

The travel period for the seat sale coincides with the fall season of the United area, which covers Osaka and Kyoto. Kyoto is built an hour away from Osaka by speedy conventions.

"Tourists flock to Kyoto's fall foliage spots such as Arashiyama, Kiyomizu-dera Temple and the Kyoto Imperial Palace from mid-October to early December. It is our pleasure to provide more opportunities for visitors to Japan, especially during such a beautiful season," said airline vice president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog. *With reports from Cebu Pacific*

MODULE 3 **Implementation: Development/Marketing and Property Management**
October 5 to 7, 2009

Major Topics
- Project Development: Own Organization vs. Outsourced
- Joint Venture Agreements
- Project Marketing Alternatives (Marketing Network, Brokers, In-House Marketing Force)
- Property Management Issues
- Actual Application to Participants' Property Project

Key Learning: **Most practical implementation strategy for project**

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Mr. Jerry Bigayan / Director of International Distribution & Major Accounts Manager, Comarche

Mr. Jasada Juejunthak / Managing Director, Simplify

Mr. Natawut Pungchareonpong / CEO, IT Works

CONSTRUCTION / 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Lessons from the Thai Construction Boom and Bust

Mr. Pongsanat Krishnavasa / Co-Founder & Managing Director, Langkong

Mr. Pongsanat will talk about his company's experience during Thailand's construction boom and eventual bust. Discover how the lessons learned during this period inspired them to develop innovative solutions in project management.

With expert presentations from:

Mr. Jasada Juejunthak / Managing Director, Simplify

BANKING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE / 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Key Challenges Facing the Philippine Insurance Industry

Mr. Ruffy Ko Pio / CEO, Cibeles Insurance

Mr. Ko Pio will enumerate the typical problems encountered by the Philippine insurance companies, especially in the midst of recent shake ups in the industry.

Grow Your Personal Wealth: Big Banks and Their Tips on Wealth Management

Mr. Efren Cruz / Chairman and CEO, Personal Finance Advisers Philippines

A registered Financial Planner both in the US and in the Philippines, Mr. Cruz will give his advice on how to manage and grow one's personal finances through solid investments.

With expert presentations from:

Mr. Chaleerayos Punnotok / CEO, CT Asia

Mr. Montri Seriwith / President, Wealth Management System Limited

BPO AND CALL CENTER / 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Best Practices in Call Center Administration

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BUSINESS

Negative perception of RP threatens BPO firms

But industry execs remain upbeat, with some anticipating expansion

By Dodel L. Lucas

THE NEGATIVE PERCEPTION OF THE Philippines and a growing shortage of so-called "knowledge workers" are increasingly viewed as significant risk factors by business process outsourcing (BPO) firms, according to a recent industry-commissioned study.

Still, officials remain upbeat on the prospects of the local BPO industry, with some even anticipating further expansion.

According to results of a survey conducted by the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) and Outsource2Philippines (O2P), pervasive negative publicity are causing a toll on the country's image, vis-à-vis foreign investors.

This perception is aggravated by the unsafe terrain of surveys showing decline in the country's competitiveness ranking.

The BPAP survey was conducted among BPO executives based in the Philippines.

The survey was meant to gauge perceived risks associated with doing business in the Philippines.

According to the results, 51 percent of respondents indicated that "negative perception" of the country is ranked either as first, second or third most important risk factor associated with doing business in the Philippines.

Twenty percent of respondents ranked negative perception as their top concern.

Also, 49 percent of respondents highlighted the "tight labor market" as being one of their top three concerns, with 23 percent ranking this issue as their number one concern.

Respondents were asked to gauge the competitiveness of the Philippines, and 56 percent said that doing business in the Philippines is less risky than doing business in India—the dominant BPO player in the world and the biggest provider of outsourced services, ahead of second place, the Philippines.

In a statement, BPAP president and CEO Oscar Salen said the local industry is on track to grow by approximately 20 percent this year, from last year's revenue of $6.1 billion.

The BPO industry employs 400,000 Filipinos in a wide range of sectors.

Capex of global semiconductor expected to rise

By Abigail L. Ho

CAPITAL SPENDING IN THE GLOBAL semiconductor sector is expected to increase in the second half, as the industry prepares for a market rebound next year.

However, for the entire 2009, spending may go down by 48 percent to $22.9 billion from $44 billion the previous year, due to market declines in the first half, according to research firm Gartner.

The industry could look forward to better times in 2010, with all segments of the market expected to grow and revenue seen to increase by 34.3 percent, Gartner said in a statement posted on its official website.

"Capacity will begin to ramp in the second half of 2010 as businesses and consumers begin to open up their pocket books to purchase electronic goods," Gartner research vice president Dean Freeman said.

After registering a dismal second quarter, Arthur Wong, chair of the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc., said that the industry was expected to post its largest growth for the year in the third quarter, a particular as a return to double-digit growth by next year.

"The third quarter won't be better than [that] of 2008, but it will be extremely better than the second quarter of 2009. We're seeing strong double-digit growth in the third quarter," he said.

More OFW families turn to savings—BSP

By Michelle V. Rosco

MORE OFW HOUSEHOLDS ARE NOW saving the money sent to them by relatives working abroad, a survey by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The quarterly survey involved 400 OFW households.

The BSP said that 35.9 percent of households receiving money from overseas Filipino workers said they were saving a portion of the remittances—a significant rise from the 30.4 percent seen in in the third quarter of last year.

Also, in the second quarter of this year, only 38.3 percent of respondent-households engaged in savings.

BSP officials said the increase in OFW savings was a welcome development, explaining that the rise in bank deposits would provide the needed funds to support investments.

Armando Intengan Jr., governor of the central bank, said savings by OFWs would help ensure the country's future.

The survey also showed a year-on-year increase in the number of households that allotted money for investments.

OFW households that engaged in investment activities in the third quarter stood at 7.8 percent of respondents, up from 7.4 percent in the same period last year.

The percentage number of OFW households that invested, however, was lower than the 8.3 percent reported in the second quarter.

Analysts said the global economic turmoil, which led to concerns about job security among OFWs, forced many households to save more.

Rather than invest the money sent in from abroad, people were forced to place their cash securely in banks, fearing the risks brought on by the crisis. This risk aversion could have led to the quarterly drop in the number of OFW households that engaged in investment activities.

The BSP said it would promote financial literacy among OFWs and their households. It had conducted road shows in various countries, educating OFWs about investments and savings. The BSP likewise conducted seminars on the same topics among families of OFWs.

"We want OFWs and their families to become financially sophisticated," Tetangco earlier said.

In the first half of the year, remittances sent to the Philippines amounted to $8.5 billion, up 2.9 percent from that in the same period a year ago.

The government reported that $18.4 billion in remittances were sent in last year.

Remittances could post a modest single-digit growth for the full year 2009, the BSP said.

P 1.6-B AIRPORT ACCORD FOR NORTH CAGAYAN

CAGAYAN Economic Zone Authority (Ceza) administrator Jose Mari Ponce (second from right) discusses plans for the development of the P1.67 billion international airport in Lallo, Cagayan. With Ponce are Renato Nunez of LR Land Developers, Basilio Rodrigues of Cagayan Land Property Development Corp. and Milo Antiguan, Ceza senior deputy administrator.

ExxonMobil to undertake $100-M drill off Sulu

By Jerry E. Barros

EXXONMOBIL EXPLORATION and Production Philippines BV is set to shell $100 million in an exploratory well in the vast Cagayan Sea in Sulu.

Drilling may start within the month.

"That's what we're looking at now," said ExxonMobil managing director Ian A. Fraser. "It's a very expensive operation, but it'll be the deepest ever drilled at 1,800 meters and the largest well drilled in the Philippines, at about 3,000 meters."

The SC 56 consortium is composed of ExxonMobil, which is the field operator; Australian firm BHP Billiton Pty Ltd., which holds a 20-percent stake; and local company Mitra Energy Philippines Ltd., which owns the remaining 25-percent working interest in the project.

"If we're successful, it will encourage other companies to look into [the prospects here] ... and that's what the Philippines needs—if you [need] to find oil, you need to drill wells," he said.

According to the Department of Energy, SC 56 is part of the Philippine government's effort to encourage investments in the energy sector leading to energy security for the country.

The exploration phase will be undertaken at an cost in the country, with all risks borne by the consortium, ExxonMobil, Mitra and BHP Billiton, it added.

"SC 56 consortium are likewise committed to conducting operations environmentally and socially. They will take into account the environmental and social costs of the project in the host communities," the DOE added.

SC 56 is 986 kilometers (km) southwest of Manila, 208 km northwest of the Bongao Municipality and 65 km from the municipality of Maimbung in the Province of Tawi-Tawi of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The service contract, which was awarded in 2005, covers some 862,000 hectares in the Sulu Sea.

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How Gloria Diaz uses actress' instincts in tennis

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

"IS THE INTERVIEW FOR FITNESS OR Fatness?" asks actress Gloria Diaz in mock self-deprecation.

In her younger days, the former beauty queen jogged, worked out in the gym and even horsebacked riding to look retro for the camera. When she would pass by Manila Polo Club's tennis courts, she would dismiss the sport upon seeing the elder people taking it up.

"Now I've joined the fours," Diaz declares, at 58, she has shifted her fitness objectives from mere aesthetics to better health and vitality.

Six days a week, she and longtime beau, banker Michael de Jesus, do mixed doubles with her sister Georgina Diaz-Baillie and investment banker Stephen Co Unjieng. It's coded drama! that they've all in their prime 50s.

Baillie recalls how their parents would eagerly prepare for golf by packing their things the night before and dropping at 9 p.m. to be up at 4 a.m. and to tee off at 6 a.m.

Now she and Diaz share that enthusiasm. They sleep early and the household is up by 5 a.m. They eat properly before the game for energy. To them, the Dole Club tennis court is the early morning is paradise.

Diaz was into intense squash before de Jesus introduced her to tennis. "Squash is very fast. It's almost scary when I see it now. I can't imagine that I used to play it. In a blink of an eye, you can injure yourself. It's for serious. In tennis, you can play with a slow opponent and still get a cardio workout," says the actress.

On the tennis culture, de Jesus explains: "In the Philippines, the center of the game is to retrieve the ball because the courts are slower; they're made of shell. Here, tennis is about raining power—who can outlast the opponent with placing, and making sure the opponent commits the mistake first. You don't have to be fancy. That's at the club level. At the professional level, it's about power, as in the US Open where the courts are fast."

Benefits

Dr Jesus started playing at 15 and returned to the sport after 35 years. He was a Class A player until a few years ago, when a tennis ball hit his eye from a backhand smash and detached his retina. After the major surgery, he slowed down. Yet, experience and wisdom from age have made him more savvy. "You understand the game more," he says.

He enjoys the mental and emotional growth tennis provides. "Tennis is good for many things—socializing, networking, competition, maintaining business contacts and also meeting pretty girls. Everything rolled into one."

The best part is that it bonds him with Diaz.

It's good for her mind, health, body—and sex life?

an. "He spread at least 90 minutes playing in the morning. Then at night, we go out and get home early so we can make up cardio. If you're doing maximum effort into sports, it would be hard," says de Jesus.

Although studies claim that tennis burns more fat than cycling or an aerobic workout, the hardest point out, the sport doesn't guarantee dramatic weight loss. "Tennis will not necessarily keep you fit. You must be fit to play tennis. It won't make you thin. It will supplement your fitness. You must do strength training, like lifting weights and running," says de Jesus.

Diaz cross-trains in the gym to improve her game and to increase her endurance. She adds: "I do a lot of sit-ups and leg raises because your core strength comes from your stomach muscles. If you have a flabby stomach, you can't win. Some tennis players have big bellies, but they compensate with their strokes and by quickly avoiding your precision."

"I thought this was a miracle sport," says Baillie. Researches have shown that tennis decreases body fat percentages, lowers the risk of heart disease and improves bone health; even among those who take up the sport in middle. "I lost weight and gained a lot of muscle to become strong," is a result. she has become a savvy counterpuncher.

Mind game

Investment banker Stephen Co Unjieng attributes his 18-lb weight loss to apprehension and checking for health, not the sport's intense bursts of activity. "Tennis was not the cause of weight loss. Improved tennis game was the result."

Co Unjieng, who has been playing tennis since he was 16, enjoys tennis not only because it awakens other senses, such as golf, in burning calories in such a compressed time. The game keeps him mentally alert.

ROW GLORIA D

How Gloria Diaz uses actress' instincts...

from page C1

and therefore, sharpens his basic poses.

"You just don't whack the ball as hard as you can. There are tactics and placing. That's what challenges me," he says. The strategist in the group, he cleverly forestalls his opponents' moves and outmaneuvers them with his concentration.

Compared to other athletes, tennis players rank high in rigor and optimism. The sport intensifies energy levels. "In the mid-'90s, when I wasn't exercising as much, I became lethargic and unmotivated. Now I sleep very well because of the heightened level of activity and increased stamina. It helps me at work in the sense that I'm more physically fit and therefore, more alert," says Co-Vicjiang.

Diaz stresses that tennis is a mental game. "You can't be surprised or scared. It's a game of confidences. Once you start losing, it's downhill from there. When we had a tournament, I was scared of somebody who was as good. I was a fatalistic from the start. Then I cleared my mind. I can do it. The strokes and the talent came."

On Anna Leonowitz Diaz, 33, protégé, he quickly becoming a Class B player after learning the game in her early '30s. "She has high lobs and good netting," he says.

Diaz must lose antsy instincts to find her opponent and to up her aces. "She places the ball at the left but she's looking at the right," says de Jesus. "She has improved her game because she has so much guts and always challenges the better players. In terms of tactics, you must not to be misled by the better players, otherwise, you might be too slow for them. But Gloria doesn't follow those rules. She's strategic! (both). By playing with better players, she has developed a wider array of shots to her arsenal."

Her sister agrees. "Glory is left-handed so the given tremendous extra spin that people don't expect. It's difficult," says Bailey who, despite her improved backhand, sometimes mistakenly feeds the ball to Diaz's powerful left backhand. "We expect the backhand would be the weak one. Everybody gives it to the present backhand," says Bailey.

GLORIA Diaz and Michael de Jesus

GEORGINA Diaz-Ballon and Stephen Co-Vicjiang

Getting older

Despite her fitness level, Diaz admits that age is catching up; she sees younger players who are more spring, who unleash fiercer serves or drive their rivals into submission with their strikes. "If you play with a younger person, your tempo will be hanging out. It's a humbling experience. You realize you're not as young."

Still, the game holds an enchanting appeal to her. "There are people who are over 75 and play three sets a week. I want to be like that at 75," says Diaz.

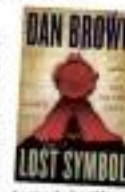
She says tennis provides benefits—such as an improved sex life.

"You're stronger," admonishes Diaz, but de Jesus disagrees "I don't see the connection."

Asked how Diaz finds time for sex with early nights and down under-age odds. "Haven't you heard of afternoon delights?"

Dan Brown's 'Lost' is no 'Da Vinci Code' but it excites

By Raul L. De Vera



THE MOST FASCINATING secret in the hands of Dan Brown is how he can make the single most powerful author in popular fiction. With the death of Michael Crichton and the ending of both the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" sagas, Brown's controversial series, featuring Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, has proven to be the chart heavyweight as seen in the miraculous stint of 2000's "Angels & Demons" and 2003's "The Da Vinci Code." It was Brown's ingenious use of historical clues that made Robert Langdon a household name. The Ron Howard movies and the Church outrage haven't hurt, either.

After a three-year delay, Brown's fifth book, "The Lost Symbol" (Doubleday, New York, 2009, 528 pages) came late night on the Democratic and the events of Washington, D.C. Set after the events of "Da Vinci," this novel brings Langdon to the US capital when summoned by his mentor, a Mason named Peter Solomon. When Solomon goes missing and a ghastly clue is left, Langdon is soon hurtling through the crowded passages of D.C. while matching wits with a seasoned, study well-read villain in search of an ancient source of power. It sounds an awful lot like "The Third Code, D.C.," except that Brown has ramped up the settings to the ultimate metaphor.

Take the antagonist. After introducing us to a killer albino monk, Brown presents a literally self-made man who is rumored from head to toe, is deadly with disguises and may be—a smart as Langdon. The man named Mal'Akh is both meditated maniac and mesmerized.

Langdon, he of the tweed coats and eidetic memory, is very much in form here, although experiencing stress by epiphanies and running for his life, he has to be the recipient these pieces, constantly moving the plot along.

Instead of an attractive, improbable young genius for a damsel, Brown has an attractive, 50-ish genius in tow.

Majority of "Lost" is suspense, plot-wise, to "Da Vinci Code," as Brown compresses a ridiculous amount of suspense and action in just 12 hours, a point I love of explosions, CIA mastermind and freaky freaks.

Additionally, he employs his love visual puzzles so his

The much-anticipated book, which hits stores today, is a killer read because of a great villain

dearing the breathless read-er to. Then, just as the action is unbearably hectic—he stops.

"Lost" is hampered by that odd decision, bringing the book to almost quite stars of the second read. Brown deploys a shocking twist—then goes into lecture mode.

Had's literature Brown likes to discuss esoteric scientific disciplines in his books, and for "Lost," it is Noetic science, a branch that deals with human potential and thought. The book is overloaded with a labyrinth of chapters with nothing but two people conversing. For those not absorbed by its overheat musings, it is bewildering and boring.

The perplexing choice aside, "Lost" makes Washington, D.C. come alive in the same way those previous border marks Paris and Vatican City come alive.

But it is the villain Mal'akh, dear readers will keep coming back to. Brown has crafted his best villain yet and he is almost good enough to elevate "Lost" above the color Langdon mysteries—but not quite.

Prime-wise, "Lost" is better than the dense "Da Vinci Code," but the older book managed to mystery better. "Lost" pales in comparison to Brown's best literary experience "Angels & Demons," but it hardly a disappointment.

It's no "Da Vinci Code," but this does exactly what is promised to do, give waiting readers an exciting new death-defying scavenger hunt with Robert Langdon in worse city. Even Dan Brown among by the fact that its Masonic subject is nowhere near as compelling as the Holy Grail, "The Lost Symbol" remains satisfying reading over shy of the previous books' billing, promising to psychologize Dan Brown and feeding an insatiable world eager for more of his brand of secrets.

Available in hardcover at Mainland Book Store for P871 with a 50-percent discount until September.

Power run raises hope, funds for charity

By Aron A. Jamboro

PLANET Sports president Arlene Gonzales with Rachel Alejandro and Kara Alikpala at UP Cal Serve

PUT HERE SHARING INTO YOUR RUNS and channel your energy in a positive way in the 2009 headwater "New Balance Power Run...Raising Hope" on Sept. 27 at the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

To benefit the Cancer Survivor and Wellness (Carewell) Community, Philippine Cancer Society, Excellence Foundation and the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation, the New Balance Power Run strives to in Manila in hopes of raising more money for charity.

"This will also be an opportunity for cancer survivors, cancer survivors and serious runners to get together since we will be getting up tents. It should be a good day for everyone. More than anything, this is a benefit run. We don't stand to profit at all—zero—from this," said Arlene Gonzalez, president of Planet Sports Inc.

With New Balance headlining the benefit run in the city, Gonzalez hopes to bring in a good mix of runners: supporters, survivors, children, recreational and elite athletes. Gonzalez said they are aiming to raise P250,000, to be divided among the three cancer institutions. (The Goulbourn Foundation will benefit from the 5k event.)

More than 2,000 have already registered so far; Gonzalez hopes the number will reach up to 5,000 participants. "We're not out to break any records here. We just want a number that is manageable enough to make it everyone's while—a good, well-organized run," he said.

Registration is until Sept. 20 at New Balance outlets in Glorietta, Shangri-La Mall, Festival Mall, Planet Sports Bonifacio, Planet Sports Trinoma, Planet Sports V-Mall, Sucat.

"So as organizations, we wanted to create a positive impact on our community. As a brand that embraces the love for running, we decided to do something about it," Gonzalez said.

Having seen through the years the growing interest and passion for running, Gonzales said he hopes "to lend the way to direct this passion to something that is more valuable."

The Carewell community, a beneficiary of New Balance for three years now, has programs with support groups to help people with cancer and their families. The Philippine Cancer Society has a Lecture Series that aims to reach 25,000 participants, about 15,000 for breast and cervical examinations, and schools for the youth anti-smoking campaign. The community-based breast cancer awareness project "Ating Dibdib" by Excellence promotes early detection and supports all breast cancer patients.

"We decide this will be a well-organized race with lots of festivities and goodies. We want to produce a quality run for a cause, and make it something participants will remember. We are urging people to come out early so they can get their numbers out of 5,000," Gonzales said.

The "New Balance Power Run...Raising Hope" is also supported by Smart, Globe, 1800Flea, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Upmenta, Summit Mineral Water, Pilmico, Department of Tourism, Iloilo, Caribbean Pizza Kitchen, Atlanta, Hershey's, Solar Sports, G2 Innovative, Bridges, Union Logistics Inc., Mars 99.1, Jam 88.3, Yehey.com, Audiovan, Businessworld, Philippine Star, Action & Fitness magazine.

Pacquiao claims he's a low-maintenance guy

By Irene C. Perez

THE MORE FIGHTS he wins, the better Manny Pacquiao seems to be looking.

The celebrity boxer is often seen in television being showed clothes, well-lined trousers and designer leather shoes. Accessories are basic things, usually a diamond stud on the left ear. Even his hairstyle is far different now, full, with side-swept bangs.

But he insists that while he has become more fashion conscious, he is not a metrosexual.

Pacquiao has gained a major fan base and has been endorsing items from ice cream to motorbikes. Head & Shoulders is his first venture in personal care products.

"Before pa ay fights ko si Amatlie, gumagamit na talaga ako ng Head & Shoulders, mula talaga 'yan," he said at the launching held at Fusionarium Hotel in Makati. "Hindi naming sisa Amatlie ako, nagbabasa ako ng mga dalawang mahabang 500 pero gumalin dun. Kaya nagtiwala ako nang Head & Shoulder sila ako para maging sponsor."

Pacquiao said he is low-maintenance when it comes to skin care as well. His wife, Jinkee, said in a recent heavens interview that he cannot put skin products on his face or have treatments because it might get too sensitive when he during fights.

His advice to fellow Filipinos who look up to him as a male idol: The key to looking good is being confident and thinking positive.

"Dapat confident ka sa sarili mo. Kahit sa boxing, sa mga ensayo. Kapag nasa fight, dapat walang isiship na negative."

The Golden Boy from General Santos fashion style has improved over the years. Did he have a stylist?

He said he still picks his own clothes, but doesn't announce the ones he buys for him. "Ako ang nagsisimili para ang hindi pero sa akin."

Macho shampoo

While there are tons of anti-dandruff shampoos in the market, Head & Shoulders' first female commercial for the male-to-consumer product for men.

"What makes a difference is a combo: dandruff and prevents hair loss with regular use," said Gloria Maria, Head & Shoulders' category marketing manager.

"It has a conditioning level optimized for men's needs, so it's not too strong to drag men's short hair down, making it limp and looking spunky, not too light to make it oily. The scent is very manly, toned and developed with men."

The active ingredient is zinc pyrithione, which removes the growth of the yeast (Malassezia globosa) on the scalp for a healthy flake-free feel. It has a refreshing blend that makes it fit for men who do not use conditioner on their hair.

Dr. Adolfo B. Bermoy, hair and scalp expert from UP-PGH, said 50 percent of adults suffer from dandruff, making the scalp itchy. Baby and scaly. This condition is usually caused by genetics, diseases and individual sensitivity.

Hair distress

"Dandruff prompts hair loss in two ways—repeated scratching that damages hair shaft and causes hair breakage, and by preventing healthy growth in skin hair," Bermoy said. "Since men produce more oil and sweat, it is best to use a potent anti-dandruff shampoo lationed to their needs."

Dandruff and hair loss can also pose psychological concerns, said Dr. Randy Bellosa, a psychologist/lecturer.

"When a guy learns he's losing hair, his first reaction would be to deny and ignore it, thinking it would go away. If it doesn't, he gets alarmed.

"He may become self-conscious and even disheartened. Some may even think that his dandruff or have an unattractive scandalous to keep people's eyes off his thinning crown.

"Pumunta nang kiti to when he starts thinking people laugh and talk behind his back, calling him names like "panot," "shopping," "Sherwater"," Bellosa says.

"Pacquiao refused to comment on shocking revelations, especially those pertaining to women who are linked to him. He said his focus now is the upcoming fight with Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto.

Milk helps fortify nervous system

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WALL WERTMAN WROTE IN "LEAVES OF Grass," "Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the earth."

Practical transportation... go as natural as possible.

When your food source is close-out to its natural state can be from the time it was harvested), its enzymes present is also encouraged. Enzymes are needed to digest food. Without them, no vitamin mineral or amino acid can be released from the food we eat. And for that matter, no quality of food we eat would benefit or if these enzymes were not present.

In short, enzymes are needed to keep us alive and healthy. But there's a catch...enzymes die when exposed to heat. There are lost almost every uncooked and unprocessed fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats and fish.

Here's a quick review:

■ Protein to digest proteins. Connected to and lost skin, strong muscles, strong blood supply.

■ Boosts enhance the calcium. Important, iron and phosphorus in milk. This results in strong teeth and bones and fortifies nervous system.

■ Lipase, for bunny that enzyme neutralized skin and fat ring defenses against viruses and infection.

■ Hydrochloric acid (HCL), tough food fighter in the stomach which breaks down hard-to-digest food like beef, pork and chicken. Without HCL, problems can arise like allergies, eczema, and gastric carcinomas. Many people lack HCL alone they know. Too little and too much HCL have the same symptoms: heart burn or sour stomach. Therefore, taking an antacid could be the wrong remedy.

Besides HCL or glutamic acid HCL or betaine is the strongest chunk of yoghurt. Always consult your physician if you have health challenges. If you want to keep stomach acids stable, try not to be stressed, get enough sleep and load up on vitamin B complex.

Eating with conscience

This could very well be called eating mindful the guilt. Here are a few pointers.

1. Intentions—always have a back up plan. Hence go in a party on an empty stomach. Hunger pangs can drive you to overeat. Instead, have a light salad or snack before you go.

2. Emotional state—Check your emotions. Never make a restaurant or order drop or crawl before a buffet when you're depressed. Emotional lingering will take place. What you cannot have emotionally, your body will compensate for and substitute through food.

3. Reflexibility—Eat be a mouse and not because it's mad time. Put food in your mouth only when you are hungry.

4. If you are health-conscious, do not enter a restaurant that uses lard for pork fat to cook its food—Often animal fats are exposed to high heat as in frying. Lard are produced. This fat already been established as a cause of cancer. Think about it. If it tastes good, what's really in it?

5. Packing away—Before meals at a restaurant, bread is always served. If you're watching your weight, push it away.

6. Drink up—Have two glasses of lukewarm water with a pinch of rock salt or squeeze of lemon. Salt will hydrate you and lemon gives you an alkaline boost.

Challenging food industry

It is time for popular food chains to introduce latest friendly and healthy items on the menu.

There is now a growing trend among popular places like Yellow Cab's Don Italo Pizza (with shiitake and arugula) and Wendy's, McDonald's and Jollibee's custom salad and fish selections.

A welcome development is concerning food and sports. The idea is to give sports enthusiasts a better choice with the introduction of "Eat Healthy."

A tie-up between De Lasalle University and the Old Spaghetti House (TOSH) is in connection with the 72nd season of the UAAP Basketball Tournament. DLSU students Isabella Rapali and TOSH chefs have whipped up pregame and postgame meals for DLSU players. The highly nutritious meals ensure glycogen or energy reserves designed for optimal performance and endurance as well as essential nutrient replacement after a heavy workout.

Everyone can avail of this meal plan and enjoy a full Italian feast—by mail and all—with a chess countdown (tel. 5225174).

Alternative work

The mind is connected to the body and vice-versa, thus, whatever thoughts we entertain directly affect your organs. If you are continuously stressed, there is a build-up of immunity acids. And if you are depressed, your immune system is affected. It all begins with the mind. So, affirm for yourself the most powerful force on earth: love, and when you do, healing and goodness are yours.

So, affirm now: "Love reigns in my life." Love and light!

ENJOY FANTASTIC REWARDS

WITH PASEO UNO'S COUNTDOWN TO DINNER.

Make the most of your get-together this season while enjoying Paseo Uno's International Dinner Buffet. From now until 31 October, book your dinner in advance and receive a discount off the total food bill, as follows:

* 5 days or more advanced booking - 30% off
* 4 days advanced booking - 40% off
* 3 days advanced booking - 30% off
* 2 days advanced booking - 20% off
* 1 day advanced booking - 10% off

* Countdown to Dinner is open to guests of Paseo Uno starting of the International Dinner Buffet on Sunday to Thursday, from now until 31 October 2009.
* The discount applies only to the buffet dinner, and for a maximum party of eight guests.
* It cannot be used in conjunction with the Mandarin Oriental, Manila Privilege Card, other promotions, and residential meeting discounts.
* The dinner buffet is offered from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm, at P1,000++.

For reservations, please call 750 8888 extension 2411 - 2412.

Why chemotherapy has been oversold

INNER AWAKENING

Janine T. Lizarraga

BY LAST WEEK'S COLUMN, I PRESENTED statistics showing chemotherapy's lack of effectiveness in prolonging survival of cancer patients based on scientific studies conducted by eminent Australian oncologists led by associate professor Grantair Morgan of the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney and published in the journal of Clinical Oncology in 2005.

Not only is chemotherapy ineffective, it also has a lot of very bad side effects such as anemia, vomiting and loss of hair. Chemotherapy doctors not only the cancerous cells but also the white cells. It is so toxic to the body that the patient often suffer more from the treatment than the sickness it aims to cure.

Despite all the evidence against chemotherapy, why is it still the preferred and accepted therapy by most forms of cancer?

The answer is provided by the Australian oncologists themselves who made the study. According to Ralph M. Moss Ph.D who reported the study, "Oncologists frequently express the benefits of chemotherapy in terms of relative risk rather than absolute strength assessment of the likely impact on overall survival which makes treatments look more beneficial than it really is."

Explains Dr. Moss, "If receiving treatment causes a patient's risk to drop from 4 percent to 2 percent, this can be expressed as a decrease in relative risk of 50 percent, that sounds good. But another equally valid way of expressing this is to say that it offers a two-percent reduction in absolute risk, which is less likely to convince patients to take the treatment."

Clinical trial

Doctors are also influenced heavily in prescribing a drug by the manner in which clinical trials are reported.

"When results were expressed as a relative risk reduction, physicians believed the drugs were more effective than they did when identical results were expressed as an absolute risk reduction."

As an example of how chemotherapy is overrated, the Australian oncologists cited the treatment of breast cancer.

"In 1998 in Australia, out of a total of 10,881 women with breast cancer, only 868 (12.8 percent) actually gained some survival benefit from chemotherapy. The use of newer regimens including taxanes and anthracyclines for breast cancer may raise survival by an estimated additional one percent but that is achieved at the expense of an increased risk of cardiac toxicity and severe damage."

In other words, the attendant serious side-effects of the newer drugs may not be worth the risk of undergoing such a treatment. This is probably the reason why some Filipino trials hoodoo and psychic surgeons told me they do not accept cancer patients who have undergone either radical or chemotherapy treatments.

Sometimes my story relatives or cancers through chemotherapy is used to justify its continued use, but as pointed out, it seldom lasts for more than a few months.

"The cancer typically returns, sometimes with renewed vigor and resulted in not generally extended by such intervention," according to the study.

Dr. Moss wonders why this important finding by the Australian oncologists about ineffectiveness of chemotherapy is not given enough attention by western media and medical specialists. Could it be because it will hurt their pocket?

Let the reader judge for himself.

Note: A new one-day seminar on "Healing with Quantum Crystals" will be held Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to be conducted by both Sylvia Martinez of Illinois Crystals and the Undersigned. The new food product, Kyrstyn-B, Renaissance seminar will be held Sept. 19, 3-7 p.m., at Blu 300 Pablo Plaza, 139 Legaspi St., Greenhills, Makati. Call 3537283 or 8139980; e-mail jaimelizarraga@yahoo.com.

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How long should one take a break from exercising?

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

ONE WEEK OF INACTIVITY is enough to maintain your fitness level, provided you do physical activity during the day like walking or do household chores.

One of my clients recently took a one-week break after three months of regular exercise. When I weighed her after, she lost another 3 pounds which completed her goal weight loss of 12 pounds for the first quarter of her program.

But others who took a two-week break from physical activity had different results.

Imagine how your body will react if you start running again after two weeks of inactivity.

Second, you might have greater chance to lose control over food, which will result to weight gain. Lastly you might break your exercise habit completely.

Manage your lifestyle as early as now.

I know a lot of group fitness instructors and trainers who exercise anything and still lose or maintain their weight because they can burn as much as 1,000 or more calories a day due to intense training.

However, during holiday breaks, they can easily gain weight because they are already used on eating high-calorie meals. This only shows that if you don't manage your eating behavior and food choices during training, you can always gain weight fast on vacation breaks.

Right running

To prevent weight gain, choose healthy foods, eat slowly and in smallservings even during peak exercise periods.

If you want to sustain the rate of your weight loss, focus on burning 400-500 calories per day, five to six days a week.

If you want to burn more calories, add informal physical activities like walking. But experts suggest that about 70 percent of weight loss results come from managing one's food.

Over-exercising will just result to rewarding yourself with high-calorie foods and giving up efforts sooner.

Non-negotiable strategies

At the recent annual convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO), Bijandra Trivedi, a psychiatrist, mentioned two major non-negotiable things one should do while losing weight: weight-loss and food journaling.

If you are on a break, it doesn't mean you can eat whatever you like in any amount. Be aware of your daily food intake by writing a journal. Physiologically, a break from structured exercises such as running or weight training will even make you consume 300-400 calories than your usual daily intake. Even if you are on a long vacation trip, weigh in once a week.

The moment you return to your exercise routine, complete your weekly schedule. At this point, you don't have to worry about returning at once to your old fitness level.

Consider the first week as mind and body conditioning and getting back to the habit period. Observe your exercise intensity level by checking your heart rate, recovery time and exercise duration.

The week after, you must be able to progress from last week's fitness level. Expect a return to your performance at the end of the second week or third week.

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Nirvana members dismayed by video game

LOS ANGELES—KURT COBAIN'S APPEARANCE IN THE latest "Guitar Hero" video game is not hitting the right notes with the surviving members of Nirvana. Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl said in a joint statement Thursday that they were "dismayed and very disappointed" that an avatar of the late Nirvana front man could be used to play songs by other artists. AP

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Ogie's favorite Michael V anecdote

OGIE ALCASID AND MICHAEL V's reality "Love Yaya and Naughty Angelina" (makes it out funny to be confined to TV it comes to the big screen via "Yaya and Angelina: The Spoiled Brat Movie," which opens Sept. 23. On TV, Ogie stole it out with Angelina. In the movie, Yaya gets fed up and leaves her "lalagyo" home.

What a Ogie's first paya memory? "I used to cry every time my paya would go on her duyan. I was so attached to her."

Sure he spoil his kids to make up for lost time with them since they live in Australia? "I think most parents spoil their kids. I am really guilty of that. But as they grow up, I try to instill in them the value of hard work."

When's his next undergoable moment with Michael V? "Every time I'm with him is memorable. But if I had to pick one, it would be the time I was a judge in a talent search in Bacolod where [Mico was starting out and he lost because I gave him a low score."

The comic duo take their characters to heart, which is why in their show "Video in the Wall," they talk a la Yaya and Angelina even off-cam. The "spoiled brat" portrayal of Ogie will never end.

OGIE Alcasid and Michael V

Long distance affair

En route to Iloilo, I bumped into Katya Santos, who was Laong-laong at the airport. Her "significant other" who comes from a prominent Oriente clan is based there.

Long distance love affairs are never easy. But from the looks of it, Katya seems to have gotten used to the set-up.

Chin-Chin Gutierrez said I seem on the same flight. I asked her if she has fully recovered from the double whammy of losing her mom and her home in one swoop. "Slowly," she said with a faint smile. Her mom, the mom of Jaqueline Jan Dimalanta Chin-Chin's beauty. Her mom passed her after a collapsed aorta hit. "Cheers!" We mention she manages to celebrate life not only because, but also despite of.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Quotable quotes

I immensely enjoy doing one-on-one interviews with celebrities on my daily cable TV show, "Step, Talk & Listen" with Hajji Diaz and Maui Taylor (6 p.m. on Cignal TV's Vivo Direction Channel with replays at 8 a.m. and 12 midnight). Here are some quotable quotes from my "Chikaloca" segment:

Ruffa Mae Quinto: "I tried being on my own but I missed my family so I bought my kid's house and we're all back under one roof. Pero good to be back in my nest to I can grow and bloom even more."

Eugene Domingo: "I want to be remembered as someone to revamp formulas."

Gabby Concepcion: "Sometimes I wish I never left the Philippines. But the storm will come. I get when I received home after being out of the scene for so long tells me that all my sacrifices in the United States are worth it."

Great literature: "Anything maghapunan ka. Mcdonut

DOROTEO

Local music for online gaming fans is No. 1

THE TOP-SELLING ALBUMS in the Philippines for the period Aug. 31 (Sept. 6, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) "Live! The Album: Music of The Lord Up! Nation," Various Artists, Star Records; 2) "No 1," Hale; Newest & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 3) "Sony Sony," Sugar Jones, Universal Records; 4) "Rise No Sign," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 5) "Rush To Love," Angie, Alpha Music; 6) "Soldiers! To Jesus," Priscia, Vicor Music; 7) "Mix 3," Various Artists, MCA Music; 8) "The Essential Michael Jackson," Michael Jackson, Sony Music; 9) "The Fame," Lady Gaga, MCA Music; 10) "Fearless," Taylor Swift, MCA Music

OPM

1) "Live! The Album: Music of The Lord Up! Nation," Various Artists, Star Records; 2) "No 1," Hale; Newest & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 3) "Rise No Sign," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 4) "Rush To Love," Angie, Alpha Music; 5) "Soldiers!

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

ANG PELIKULANG WINNER SA KUWELA
OGIE ALCASID MICHAEL V.
YAYA & ANGELINA
THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
IZA CALZADO LEO MARTINEZ ROSANNE ROMOS
AIKO MELENDEZ and JOHARI TULABA
OPENS IN THEATERS
SEPTEMBER 23

My hair was thinning hopelessly. But I beat it!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes
DON'T GIVE IN TO HAIRLOSS.
"My hair was my best accessory until it started thinning after I gave birth. My frequent coloring and styling didn't help. I tried re-growth remedies, but my hair worsened, becoming even thinner. People said I might never regain my full-bodied hair – it looked hopeless. Then I tried Svenson. Amazingly, with just a few treatments, my hair started to grow thicker, healthier, shinier. I'm relieved to say, I've beaten hopelessly thinning hair – thanks to Svenson."
Discover how Svenson will help. Call now for a FREE private consultation.
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MOVIEWORLD

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GALLERIA

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 KIMMY DORA
3 GMA – SINGE FILM FEST
4 THE GRUDGE 3
5 DISTRICT 9
6 UP (Digital 3D)
7 GAMER
8 THE FINAL DESTINATION
9 AND I LOVE YOU SO
10 THE MANAGEMENT

FRIMITA

1 THE MANAGEMENT
2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 GAMER
4 THE GRUDGE 3
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION
7 KIMMY DORA

METRO EAST

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 THE GAMER
3 MANGKUKULA
4 THE GRUDGE 3
5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 DISTRICT 9
7 KIMMY DORA
8 AND I LOVE YOU SO

NOVALICHES | **PIONEER**

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 KIMMY DORA
4 THE GRUDGE 3

1 GAMER
2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 KIMMY DORA
4 THE GRUDGE 3

STA. ROSA | **LIPA**

1 LAND OF THE LOST
2 THE GRUDGE 3
3 KIMMY DORA
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

1 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
2 KIMMY DORA
3 YEAR ONE
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

DASMARINAS | **IMUS**

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 KIMMY DORA
4 THE GRUDGE 3

1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 THE GRUDGE 3
3 KIMMY DORA
4 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER

STARMILLS

1 MY SISTER'S KEEPER
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 BRUNO
4 KIMMY DORA
5 SHORTS
6 LAND OF THE LOST

ANGELES | **TACLOBAN**

1 LAND OF THE LOST
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 KIMMY DORA
4 SHORTS

1 DISTRICT 9
2 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
3 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 THE HANGOVER
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 KIMMY DORA
4 LAND OF THE LOST
5 THE HAUNTED
6 MANGKUKULA

1 THE HANGOVER
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 KIMMY DORA
4 LAND OF THE LOST
5 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
6 DISTRICT 9

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EXCLUSIVE

OPENS TOMORROW AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

Explore the allure of the American dream and the reality that immigrants find - and create– in 21st century L.A.

crossing over

"Terrific performances from a first-rate ensemble cast..."

"Engrossing, thoroughly entertaining..."

Glorietta Greenbelt Trinoma

Ogie's favorite ...

From page B1

man minuto, kulangan ito ng lesser Idols para magbigayang bahay sila."

Marvin Agustin: "Before it was always me, me, me in my relationships. I've reached a point where I have more to give afterpaid. I'm ready for my Miss Right. If she comes tomorrow, I'll marry her right away."

At Ai-Ai: Isa siyang "Where I find my home" finalist, dream never dies. I didn't know where I would get enough money to continue building it. Labanan lang nalaga ng loob. Si mo maidaman kung ano ang kaya mo hanggat di mo'y dare ang sarili mo."

Online TV show

Host Shaina 'Toni Tin Boy' Reboldo-Rabaso sent me an update on her online TV show:

"Hi Dolly,

"Happy to tell you that www.pinoytin.tv, the first Philippine online parenting show of which I am creative director and host, since its launch last July has garnered 470 thousand hits. My website is unique because: 1) It is an online parenting show; 2) It has interactive web content; and 3) It has engaged events in malls here with my parenting community.

"This is my life's vision, and now I am happily living it. I am so thankful because I succeeded in tapping the niche market – parents like me. And the success comes as part of the triple blessing in my life now: I am on my sixth month of pregnancy and we already found out that it is a boy this time!"

Tin feeds the way to parenting through chick-ed-thin, info and fun.

Original interpretor

Shilli Cacanta doesn't mind that she wasn't tapped to sing the theme of the Hong version of Stairway to Heaven, "Pag-Ibig Ko'y Pansinin" which happens to be her original song. "Ishid ito nanood si Angeline sa OK lang na siya ang napiling kumanta. Besides nakakatuwa if ako pa rin mag sing ng theme sila. Dama na ako yung kumanta ng theme at original si Reinamelyn." That's the right Ebbidittude.

'Dama' soars

GMA 7's "Dama" soars above all in unreasonable TV ratings. Based on the National Urban Television Measurements data from AGB Nielsen Philippines from Aug. 9-15, "Dama" took the No. 1 spot with an average TV rating of 26.6 percent. Its pilot episode posted a TV rating of 44 percent in Mega Manila.

Since then, it has been posting more than 40 percent ratings in most days. Arvin Marian Rivera, Dacisel

E-mail: [illegible]

Local music ...

From page B1

'In demands,' Princess, Vicor Music; 6) 'Kita Segunin Ito Live,' Sitti Segovia, Star Records; 7) 'In My Life: Original Movie Soundtrack,' Sarah Geronimo, Star Records;

8) 'Gifting Gifting,' Willie Revillame, Star Records; 9) 'Cunnaginan,' Siot, Mastoi Music;

10) 'We Are 1,' Reis Aquino & Baby Jones, Star Records.

US Top 10 singles

The best-selling recorded music in the United States, including digital downloads, as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine:

1) "I Gotta Feeling," The Black Eyed Peas, Interscope; 2) "Down," Jay Sean feat. Lil Wayne, Universal Republic; 3) "Party in the U.S.A.," Miley Cyrus, Hollywood; 4) "Run This Town," Jay-Z, Rihanna & Kanye West, Roc Nation; 5) "The Scientist," Kings Of Leon, RMG; 6) "You Belong With Me," Taylor Swift, Big Machine; 7) "Obsessed," Mariah Carey, GLRMG; 8) "Halo/ Beam Me Up," Pitbull, RMG; 9) "Whatcha Say," Jason Derulo, Warner Bros; 10) "Best I Ever Had," Drake, Universal Republic. AP

RP edition of No. 1 album

Front page D4

No. 1 in Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland, critics describe the band as a glam version of Nirvana, which Hayden has acknowledged as an influence, along with Iron Youth, The Misfits, and The Screaming Pumpkins.

'Shawn Colvin Live'

"Shawn Colvin Live" (Warner Music), the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter's 10th album (and second release for the Nonesuch label), was recorded last year during a three-night solo engagement at the San Francisco jazz club Yoshi's. It contains 13 tracks (which Colvin wrote or collaborated on, as well as covers of songs by Robbie Robertson, Gnarls Barkley, and The Talking Heads).

Lesha's debut

"Lesha" is the self-titled debut album (Sony Music) of the Australian singer formerly known as Frehley, who resigned with Cash Handsome and landed lead roles on stage, TV and indie films. She was a vocal-ist/keyboardist of the indie electronic/ambient group Invader Ring.

'Big Whiskey'

Dave Matthews Band's "Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King" (Warner Music) is the group's seventh studio album and its first since 2005's "Stand Up." The CD has 13 tracks written by the band and produced by Rob Cavallo, and pays tribute to the group's late percussionist, LeRoi Moore, who passed away last year. He last recordings are included in the album. The recording-branding members — Matthews (vocals, guitar), Carter Beauford (drums), Stefan Lessard (bass) and Boyd Tinsley (violin) — regrouped in an LA studio early this year.

Spektor's hits

Regina Spektor's "Far" (Warner Music) is the singer-songwriter's fifth album and the follow-up to "Begin To Hope" (which some gold. Born in Moscow to a Jewish family, Spektor grew up in New York, studied classical piano at the Manhattan School of Music, but also listened to hip-hop, rock and punk. Her inspirations include the works of Joni Mitchell, Ani DiFranco and other singer-songwriters (updated list: Is composer list: own songs "Far" (contains 13 tracks with four acoustic guitar on board: Jeff Lynne (Electric Light Orchestra, The Traveling Wilburys), Mike Elizondo (Dr. Dre, Eminem), David Bahow (Paul McCartney, The Strokes), and Gonzo "Jacknife" Lee (Weezer, R.E.M.).

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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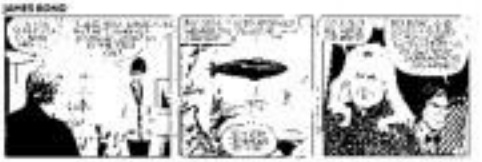


DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

DEN

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BIRD MACHINE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Romantic liaisons with enchanting women in part. You'll be tempted to marry unexpected things are occurring. Be careful not to put your job or your health. When there is stress in work area, it shows up in other areas as well. Remain calm.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Domestic matters and family relationships are confusing today. Don't hold others to their word. People don't know what they're saying. There's a strong sense of relief for little bit.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have timeline on your love today. Such as communication with others, especially siblings and relatives, is confusing. Blame others is never a timing piece of humor.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your mood is changeable today. Don't make important decisions about finances today. Similarly, avoid signing contracts and purchases. You might be deceived, or you might not have all the facts. Use caution!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Partnerships are complex today. Don't make important decisions about your relationships. Misunderstandings are likely with a person with financial considerations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a unusually good day for partnerships. Jealousy may erupt, and you may have to deal with unexpected events. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Figure out what's important.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unexpected news is your ruling today. Don't get caught up in the moment. Be careful not to overspend. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Figure out what's important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There's so much to enjoy with friends, partners, clubs and organizations today. Be careful not to overspend. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Figure out what's important.

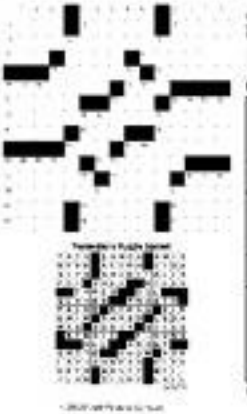
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Communication difficulties with relatives, neighbors and parents might be frustrating. Be cautious about travel plans. Misunderstandings about written matters, higher education, insurance and the law also are likely. Have patience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Some important decisions in partnerships might arise today. Financial matters, especially shared property, need particular focus. Be careful, though, not to get involved in gossip.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Others depend on your dependability and cooperation can bring further success to partnerships right now. Try to put everything you have into it. You need clarity in your relationships today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Partnerships are subject to conflict and misunderstandings. Matters at work are confusing and unclear. Obviously, this is not a good day for important decisions!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Mary Hayes

5		2						
		3			7	8	5	
7				2			1	9
			1			4		2
		4			3			7
		6		8			3	
		9	4			2		8
			5	3	8		1	
							6	9

Use only 1-9 ★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	6	9	4	1	2	8	7
8	1	2	3	6	7	9	4	5
4	7	9	5	2	8	1	6	3
3	6	4	7	1	5	8	9	2
1	2	3	6	8	9	4	7	1
9	8	7	4	3	2	7	5	6
6	5	7	2	9	3	6	1	4
2	4	8	1	5	6	3	7	9
7	9	1	8	7	4	5	2	5

Twice the pressure, double the fun

ROYALLE ROXANNE DOMINGO HAS BECOME a star comic, thanks a whole lot to *Jaypee Borromeo*'s first film, "Mommy Dearest." The erstwhile "supporting" comedienne has been given her own title vehicle — in fact, make that double. The new lead plays twins in the production. Oh, such pressure to succeed!

At last, the formula finds a bit wise, since movies about twins have been done pretty much in deadening succession for decades. After a while, however, things perk up — thanks to Domingo's feisty, diverse portrayals and the comic work turned in by Bentud and writer-Chris Martinez — and we're encouraged to give the format another test around the park.

So we sit back to enjoy the movie's story ideas: crafty Kimmy and dimwit Dora, and how they fight for the attentions and love of their dad (Ariel Ureta). At first, the rivalry is no contest, since Kimmy has so much more going for her. But it soon becomes clear that what Dora lacks in brains, she more than makes up for with her loving heart, so the storytelling eventually turns to her favor.

In fact, the movie ends up as a tribute to what's really important in life and love, with the transmuted siblings' rivalry providing object lessons that are both amusing and harrowing.

After a while, however, we feel that the production is too hyper and self-conscious-ly "stylish" for its own good. Yes, production values and design are important in a big-bang comedy like this, but they shouldn't distract from the humor and the performances.

Due to the occasionally self-conscious staging, Bayron's (pictured) isn't as natural as it should be, particularly in reference to her "tough" Kimmy characters. Dora is less affected, but the character's pre-screened expressions similarly get to be cloying in their own simpering way.

Granted, the movie presents frontage with dancing challenges, because it's easy to play the twins' contrasting characters for distinctly obvious shells that are inherent in them. It would really have been more challenging to see the actress if she had opted to go for the twins' deeper core.

Having said that, however, we concede that bright and brisk commercial movies of this sort practically exist such an intelligent insightful "smack," for fear of leaving viewers far behind. So, we understand why the actress wasn't so demanding of herself as she could have been.

In the future, however, we would like to see Domingo stretch herself even further, to show what she can really do. It's good that her first classic is a success, because it can give her that shot to be even more resourceful in her next subsequents.

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

'Amphytryon'

Until Sept. 20 at Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, Diolanog UP scopes Heinrich von Kleist's "Amphitryon," with Aeric Bacquian's Filipino translation directed by Jose Estrella. The tale of love, godly games and mistaken identities exploits Still Gene, Lee Moreno and Bianca Malabay. Call 926-1349.

Jay Leno returns to prime time TV

"THE JAY LENO SHOW" RETURNS TO prime time TV at 12 p.m. today on Jack TV.

Iconic popular segments from the old gig are back—Leno's riotous opening monologue, the absurd statements from "Headlines" and the popular "Bystanding" where unsuspecting pedestrians are caught up in ambush interviews.

It airs Tuesdays to Saturdays at 12 noon, with prime time telecast at 11 p.m.

Pilar on 'Probe'

Cherbe Lazaro revisits the peak of Pilar Pilapil's career and the actress' experiences with her flirtation in "Probe Profiles" interviews on ABS-CBN after the late newscast "Bandila."

Lazaro's encounter with the 50-year-old actress in her hometown in Cebu where the story of the under-aged lass who won the nod of the thrill-seeking Filipino judges first transcends.

The show is to be played Fridays at 2 a.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. on the 60S. CBN News Channel.

The episodes may also be viewed on http://newsgmanetwork.

Fallen hero

THE finale sees in the action-packed "Eagle" as a seasoned, hard-living and misunderstood superhero who has fallen out of the public's favor.

Hancock's self-centered Sunday might get the job done and save lives, but always seem to leave damage.

It also stars Jason Bateman, Charlize Theron and Eddie Marsan.

"Hancock" premieres on Sept. 10 at 9 p.m. on HBO with encores on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m., Sept. 26 at 11 p.m. and Sept. 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Korea's Super Junior releases RP edition of No. 1 album

THE 13-MEMBER KOREAN BOY band Super Junior has released its third album, "Sorry, Sorry" (Universal Records), locally is released at No. 1 in South Korea, Thailand, Hongkong and Taiwan.

The CD's Philippine edition, "Sorry Sorry (Version C)," contains 10 original, including the title track.

'Pamparupo's Best Boxer'

Sholy Alvin, whose independent record label QBA Production now behind the all-Filipino-program album.

"Kahalo Filipino, Kaka

Sa Noon Ka" by the award-winning jazz artist Jhun David, has a new project. Its

pamparupo movie arranged from noon style.

"Pamparupo's Best Boxer" features Alvin singing 10 traditional Kapampangan tunes: "O Kaka," "Singsing," "Ayo Kitiliayna," "Dalanderan Pling Bengi," "Sayang Malati Ka," "Malayang Kalaung Pelitalan," "Halang Mutan," "Mekeni King Sipung Ku," "O Pilang it Rendak" and "Paling Bonito." There are three original tracks: "I Mayo Mindo Ka," "Buntut Pamparupo" composed by Lourdes Quiroz and Sherylyn, and "Ibu Dekalulu" (written by Alvin himself).

A compilation piece, the album "Bonus Pamparupo," contains the same song lineup, interpreted by various artists.

Placebo's sixth album

"Battle For the Sun" (Universal) is the sixth album of British alternative rock band Placebo. It entered the UK and European album charts. Setting

KORBEN G. DY

MELISSA Manchester

FREDDIE Aguilar

BELLA Papin

Freddie Aguilar in Caramoan benefit dinner show Sept. 17

GARY V and Marichi Noriega

FREDDIE AGUILAR PERFORMS IN "Concierto Fabulosito Ning Camarines," a benefit dinner show on Sept. 17 at Villa Caceres Hotel in Naga City Mounted to Commemorate 10th Anniversary of Ilawod Alumni Association in Magsaysay and in Environs, the concert aims to raise funds to equip classrooms of poor students in Camarines.

Chairperson Ilan Tan reveals, organized by Camarines provincial director Jacobedie P. Arriba, also features DJ Alexis and Aguilar's Winwood Band. Dinner is at 7; show at 8.

SHOW TIME

Martin, Gary at Big Dome

Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano join forces for the first time in "In 1," on Sept. 19 at the Araneta Coliseum. Both artists say they will promote something that people have not seen in any of their solo gigs or weekly stint on the Sunday TV show "ASAP." Call 911-0000.

Papin-Manchester reunit

The lavish Papin-Mellora Manchester back-to-back concert has been reset to Dec. 16 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, and Dec. 19 at the ISSC Plenary Hall, Pasay. Triple, one of the country's most popular singers of soul-inspired ballads in the late '70s, has been based in the United States for the past three years. It was during her stint at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas that Triple met Manchester. Grammy-winning American singer-songwriter who was also a regular performer at the same venue. The duo headlined a show together in Vegas recently. Call 997-5603 local 0214 to 027.

Katy Perry at Mall of Asia

American singer-songwriter Katy Perry performs Oct. 3 at the SM Mall of Asia open-air grounds. The concert also features the US pop band Boys Like Girls. Born as Essie Barbara, California, Perry started singing in church, being the daughter of pastors. She caught the attention of country music celebrities in Nashville, who persuaded the then 15-year-old musician to record her debut album.

In 2007, she gained wider notice with her Internet hit, "It's So Gay" which became a favorite of Madonna. In 2008 Perry's single, "I Kissed a Girl," went to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for seven straight weeks. The video was nominated for Boy MTV Video Music Awards, including Best New Artist. Perry was also voted Best New Artist by readers of Rolling Stone magazine.

Tonight

•Brad Gillespie, 70s Bistro, Call 414-2007

•Gulfstream Island, Magnet Subdivision, QC.

Tomorrow

Advance, Superstar at 70s Bistro

Sept. 25

Apo Hiking Society at 9 p.m., Alphaland, 106 North Edsa, Quezon City

Sept. 26

Gianlig Bedrock, Pandemonium Rockers, Hot Saga Project, The Pantheon, Shercaine Ortiz, Rhoda Rhyme, 6 p.m., Dr. La Salle Araneta University Open Field, Malabon

Oct. 2

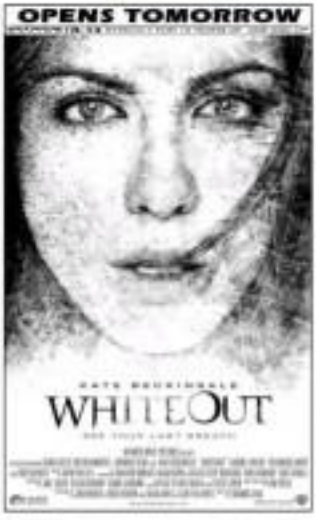
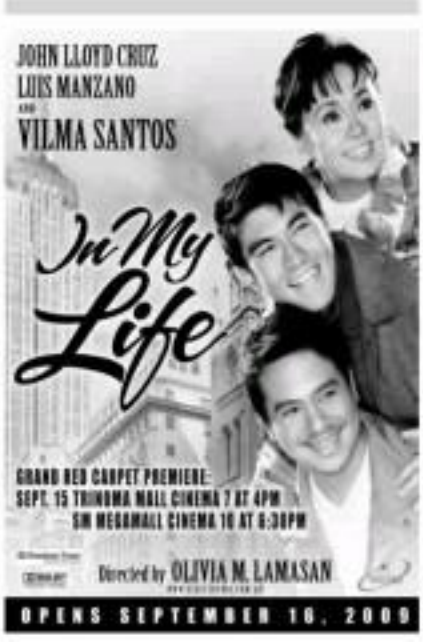
Shane Warwick, 9 p.m., Araneta Coliseum

Oct. 16

Scott Hendricks, Jeff Bailey, Dennis Chambers at Harbour Garden, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Pasay

Oct. 21

Bublé, 8:30 p.m., Araneta Coliseum

Oct. 23

Akon, 8 p.m., Araneta Coliseum